Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-011
Tuesday
19 January 1993

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FBIS-SOV-93-011 *19 January 1993*

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Foreign Ministers Sign Chemical Weapons Ban in Paris

Belarus' Kravchanko Attends

WS1401134493 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 0649 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Today, Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanko arrived in Paris to participate in the international conference on the signing of a convention banning the development, production, accumulation, use, and destruction of chemical weapons [sentence as received]. About 160 delegations from all over the world are attending this significant forum.

On 14 January, P. Kravchanko is going to address the conference within the framework of the general discussion. The same day, he must sign the convention banning chemical weapons on behalf of Belarus—a unique international document outlawing one of the most dangerous weapons of mass destruction. The signing of this convention has a special meaning for our Republic. As a matter of fact, it is the first international document of such a great scale that Belarus is signing not as a legal successor of the former USSR, but as a sovereign state, aware of its responsibility for world processes.

During his visit to France, P. Kravchanko is planning meetings with U.N. Secretary General Butros Ghali, UNESCO General Director Federico Mayor Zaragoza, foreign ministers of Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, and India.

Tajikistan's Alimov Participates

LD1401205993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2011 GMT 14 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Batyrev and Andrey Krasnoschyokov]

[Text] Paris January 14 TASS—U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali met with the Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Alimov in Paris on Thursday [14 January] to discuss the situation in Tajikistan.

The Tajik foreign minister is taking part in a ceremony of signing a convention banning the development, production, possession and use of chemical weapons and its elimination. On Thursday the Tajik foreign minister put his signature under the convention on behalf of Tajikistan.

A spokesman for the Tajik delegation told ITAR-TASS that during the meeting between Butrus-Ghali and Alimov, which was held in the atmosphere of friendliness, openness and mutual interest, the Tajik foreign minister thoroughly informed Butrus-Ghali about efforts made by the constitutional authorities of Tajikistan aimed at the stabilisation of the situation and the establishment of peace in the mountain region and the elimination of the consequences of the fratricidal war.

On behalf of the Tajik leadership and the Tajik people Alimov expressed the gratitude to the United Nations for the attention and support given to Tajikistan.

He expressed the hope that the U.N. authority and influence would further contribute to taking Tajikistan out of a severe social crisis, returning refugees forcibly expelled from the country and rendering international humanitarian assistance.

A special U.N. mission which would be sent to Tajikistan on the decision of the U.N. Security Council has been instructed to coordinate this work.

Alimov passed over to the U.N. secretary general a special message by the Tajik Parliament Chairman Imomali Rakhmonov.

Butrus-Ghali said he was prepared to visit Tajikistan in summer, 1993.

Various Ministers Address Meeting

LD1501144193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0809 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Batyrev and Andrey Krasnoshchekov]

[Excerpts] Paris, 15 Jan—The ceremony marking the signing of the convention on prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction ends in the French capital today. Envoys of 127 countries are participating in the ceremony at UNESCO headquarters. A total of 120 states—including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Georgia, Moldova, and a number of other countries of the former Soviet Union—had signed by the end of the international forum's second work day. [passage omitted]

Nikolay Makarevich, Ukraine's first deputy foreign minister, recalled in his address that the generation of soldiers at the beginning of the 20th century was the first to feel the effects of chemical weapons and that even then those weapons horrified the whole world. Unfortunately, a number of states still keep these barbaric weapons in their arsenals, the Ukrainian diplomat noted. He stressed that Ukraine has never had any doubt about the need to conclude a global agreement on eliminating chemical weapons and voiced the hope that the monitoring measures envisaged by the convention would make it possible to prevent the secret development and production of new forms of chemical weaponry.

Kazakh Foreign Minister Tuleytay Suleymenov is of the view that the convention on banning and eliminating chemical weapons is an "invaluable contribution toward preserving civilization" and is a further step toward achieving mankind's dream, that of creating a secure world free of weapons of mass destruction. He also commented that although Kazakhstan has no chemical

weapons, the consequences of chemical weapons tests on the testing grounds of the former USSR are having an impact upon the republic.

Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze stated that Georgia is ready to open up for international monitoring not only its operational chemical industry enterprises but also those which will be built on the republic's territory.

Trivimi Velliste, Estonia's diplomatic head, talked in his address about the problems which the chemical arsenals of the former USSR are creating. He pointed out that the burial of World War II chemical weapons in the Baltic Sea arouses particular concern in his republic, since they represent a potential ecological danger for all countries of the Baltic region. He said that Estonia attributes particular importance to Russia's signature of the text of the convention. [passage omitted]

Estonia's Velliste Speaks

WS1501131693 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 0909 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Tallinn, January 14—Estonia's Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste signed the United Nations chemical weapons convention and presented a speech at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

Velliste also met the U.S. Secretary of State, Lawrence Eagleburger, Germany's Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, Poland's Foreign Minister, Krzysztof Skubiszewski, Hungary's Foreign Minister, Geza Jeszenszky, Belarus' Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka and Finland's Foreign Minister, Paavo Vayrynen.

Estonia's delegation will return to Estonia on January 15.

Ukraine's Makarevych Comments

LD1501113593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0100 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpts] On behalf of Ukraine the first deputy foreign minister of the republic, Mykola Makarevych, signed in Paris on 13 January a convention on banning the designing, manufacture, and stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their destruction. [passage omitted]

During the signing of the convention Mykola Makarevych said that there are no chemical weapons nor objects for their manufacture on the territory of Ukraine, but Ukraine has a developed chemical industry and the fulfilment of the convention would require significant efforts on the part of the Government of Ukraine. It is important to ensure that all the provisions of the convention, first and foremost those which concern the elimination of chemical weapons and banning the designing of new models, should be strictly adhered to by all signatories. In order to reach this goal Ukraine is prepared to do everything possible.

Russian Foreign Ministry Hails Chemical Weapons Ban

LD1701110993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] A representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry has described the convention on banning the creation, production, accumulation, and use of chemical weapons and their elimination as a major step in providing international security. He said this in a conversation yesterday with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. For the first time ever, mankind has succeeded in agreeing on not just the elimination of a whole type of mass destruction weapons, but also on the elimination of all the reserves. The diplomat stressed that in signing the convention on banning and eliminating chemical weapons, Russia is fully aware of the scale of obligations it takes upon itself. A total of 40,000 tonnes of poisonous substances will have to be eliminated. The issue of the conversion of former production facilities for chemical weapons will also have to be resolved. A number of states, including the United States, Germany, Great Britain, and Japan, have expressed their readiness to assist Russia in tackling these problems.

Observer Notes Problems in Implementing Ban

LD1501210493 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Russia was among the first to sign in Paris the international convention banning chemical weapons. Here's what Radio Moscow military observer Mikhail Ulmanov writes about the convention itself and the difficulties involved in implementing it:

[Announcer] [passage omitted] As for Russia it is to destroy the chemical weapons it had inherited from the Soviet Union, and that is about 40,000 tonnes of war gas and other poisonous chemicals.

This however, involves a number of problems. The main one is where the weapons are to be eliminated. Four such sites on the territory of Russia have already been named, but before work starts there, it is necessary to create a favorable social, ecological and medical infrastructure for the local population. But doing all that in the present economic situation in Russia can be compared only with the task of Hercules.

Financially that will require about a third of the 100 billion rubles which are so far expected to be spent. The rest, including hard currency, will go directly to organize the destruction process itself. Certain equipment and technology are to be acquired in the West to have everything done as ecologically clean as possible. [passage omitted]

The program of chemical disarmament has been given a high status in this country. There is a special committee under the president, which means that it has been put under his direct control. There have been special hearings on the problem in the Supreme Soviet of Russia.

And this gives ground for viewing favorably the prospect of the convention being ratified in parliament.

Russian Envoy Cited on Chemical Weapons Convention

PM1901095193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 3

[Report by Yuriy Kovalenko: "Checking on Presence of Chemical Weapons 'Everywhere, at Any Time, Without Right of Refusal'"]

[Text] Paris—At the moment when U.S., British, and French aircraft, attacking several targets, were "disarming" Iraq against its will, the three-day ceremony of the signing of the document on voluntary disarmament—the convention on banning the development, production, storage, and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction—which began Wednesday was continuing in Paris.

"People fight with weapons, not poisons"—that statement of the ancient Romans was cited when he addressed the signing by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, urging the international community to take one more step after that—to destroy nuclear weapons too.

It is the "war with poisons" that should be ended by this convention drafted under UN auspices, which provides for the first time in history for the elimination of one category of weapons of mass destruction. An unprecedented verification regime has been approved for this, whose principle is formulated as follows: "Everywhere, at any time, without the right of refusal."

But can it be considered that the convention, as some politicians assert, is truly of a universal nature? Over these days the document will be signed by about 130 countries, whereas invitation were sent out to 187 states. Accession to the convention is a gradual process. The convention remains open for signing in New York since the UN secretary general is its depositary.

Chemical weapons in any case must be destroyed, Ambassador Sergey Batsanov, the Russian representative at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, noted in a talk with me. The view that such weapons "lie there and require no attention" is absolutely wrong. They do require attention—funds are needed for their maintenance or at least their safe storage. The longer they are there the more they require.

They must be destroyed while observing all rules of ecological, health, and other safety, S. Batsanov stressed, to the most modern technological standard, with double or triple control so that this process does not entail adverse consequences. For that we will need international cooperation and help at individual stages of this technological chain of destruction. To this day the agreement of the places of destruction with the local population is not advancing as smoothly as one would like. And here the government must act far more vigorously.

According to our own assessments, the Russian representative at the disarmament conference continued, our stocks of chemical weapons total 40,000 tonnes. Considering what is now happening to the ruble in our country, he says, I would be afraid to name the sum necessary to eliminate them. Although if everything is translated into dollars, including the cost of the workforce and resources, I think we would manage it more cheaply than the Americans (the United States believes that the destruction of its arsenals will cost $8 billion—Yu.K.). We are not counting on U.S. dollars and aid. Of course, that aid could be very useful. But no one will resolve our problems for us in full."

Ambassador S. Batsanov sees no serious difficulties in connection with the Russian Supreme Soviet's ratification of the convention. In his opinion it is "defensible" from the expert viewpoint, considering that the balance of interests has been observed. Of course, this document is not ideal for us. But all those who sign it are in the same situation.

Ukraine Says U.S., Russia Provide Nuclear Guarantees

AU1501153293 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 15 Jan 93 p 1

[Statement by the Press Center of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs: "There Are Guarantees"]

[Text] In connection with numerous inquiries by Ukrainian and foreign reporters regarding guarantees for Ukraine's national security on the part of nuclear powers, the Press Center of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs states the following:

As a result of negotiations between B. Tarasyuk, chairman of Ukraine's National Committee for Questions of Disarmament, and the United States Administration, a draft copy of written guarantees has been received. A corresponding draft has also been received from the Russian Federation. These documents are a subject for further consultations.

'Reaffirmation' of START II by Clinton Important

LD1701083893 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2110 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Valentin Zorin commentary]

[Text] Politicians in Russia are wondering when the new American President, Bill Clinton, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will meet. To answer this question it should be borne in mind that the coming of each new U.S. president into the White House entails a pause, quite often a protracted one, in Washington's political activity. This also holds true of U.S. relations with this country. But if in the past the inevitable pause in contacts between the leaders of the two countries only disrupted the normal pace of affairs to a certain extent,

this time such a pause, should it arise, will [word indistinct] difficult problems, above all for the Russian side.

There is every indication that Washington is aware of that. And there is nothing else to explain that George Bush, in violation of long-standing tradition, just on the eve of the inauguration of the new President, visited Moscow to sign the START II Treaty. He acted with Bill Clinton's full consent and approval. For his part, Boris Yeltsin, who has had important telephone conversations with the future administration chief, would not have acted so swiftly and decisively if he had not been convinced in his support of the treaty.

However, the signing of START II was only the first, even though quite important, step. The treaty is to be debated by the U.S. Congress and by Russia's Supreme Soviet. The reaffirmation of the new administration's position over START II during official talks will become a serious factor for its early ratification. It's important not to let the process of transition from confrontation to partnership between the two countries to be interrupted or slowed down, and this means not only to consolidate the foundation of security of our both [as heard] countries, but to enable the U.S. Administration to cope with the problems it will encounter at home.

Russian Defense Experts Positive About START II

LD1401224393 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent Ashot Nasibov, from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Nasibov] This is the Central Research Institute of the Russian Defense Ministry. The film crew of the Novosti program was the first among journalists to gain access to this top secret establishment. Specialists from this institute worked at the Geneva talks, assessed American proposals, and provided a basis for our proposals. All the provisions of the START II treaty relating to strategic missiles were scrutinized here, as well.

[Professor V.Z. Dvorkin] The treaty stipulating the level of 3,000 to 3,500 was not unexpected for us because we envisaged even deeper cuts, up to 2,000.

[Nasibov] The institute's experts examined several hundred versions of reducing warheads on our side and the U.S. side. This work has been conducted for more than a year. They have come to the following conclusions:

[Dvorkin] As the level of strategic nuclear forces diminishes, the strategic balance is improving to the advantage of Russian strategic nuclear forces. This is linked to a sharp weakening of the potential of U.S. offensive forces.

[V. P. Udodov, candidate of technical sciences] The deterrent potential, or the potential of the missile forces' retaliatory strike, is increasing practically by more than 50 percent.

[Nasibov] The missile specialists [raketchiki] have had enough time to think everything over. Whereas political haste could somehow be mentioned in connection with the signing of the START II, technical haste was out of the question. It is believed here that in comparison with the previous one, this treaty's overall economic effect will amount to about 50 billion.

Russian-Spanish Disarmament Talks End in Madrid

LD1901092693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0810 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Shekhovtsov]

[Text] Madrid January 19 TASS—The first Russo-Spanish consultations on disarmament matters at deputy foreign ministers' level have ended here.

"We informed the Spanish side about the START-2 Treaty and discussed a number of topical international problems such as non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, a ban on chemical weapons, and possible areas for cooperation between Spain and Russia, and other matters," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Berdennikov told ITAR-TASS.

"In particular, the Spanish side raises the question of its participation as a full member in the Geneva conference on disarmament. We support Spain's intention and consider that its joining the Geneva forum would be quite useful from the viewpoint of the country's growing role and prestige in the international arena.

"The exchange of views has shown that Russia's and Spain's positions on disarmament problems and on a ban on nuclear weapon tests are very close," Berdennikov said.

"Spain favours a ratification of the START-1 Treaty by Belarus and Ukraine without delay and the accession of these two countries and Kazakhstan as non-nuclear states to the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons," the Russian deputy foreign minister pointed out.

Taking part in the consultations from the Spanish side was Deputy Foreign Minister Maximo Cajal.

Preview of Minsk Meeting of CIS Heads of State

Discussion Topics Listed

LD1501205393 Minsk Radiostantsiya Belarus International Service in Belarusian 1930 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] In Minsk, the capital of Belarus, the preparations for the meeting of CIS heads of state, which is to take place on 22 January, are almost complete. Ivan Karatschenya, coordinator of the CIS working group which prepared the documents, has announced this. The draft statutes of the CIS will be considered. Economic issues, including the question of creating an interstate bank, as well as military and legal matters are being submitted for discussion. At the request of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, the events in that Central Asian republic and measures for stabilization of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border have been included for discussion.

Pre-Summit Situation Viewed

LD1601164593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1910 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Preparations are drawing to a close for the forthcoming CIS summit scheduled for 22 January in the Belarusian capital of Minsk. What is the situation in the Commonwealth a week before the summit? The Commonwealth's future will depend largely on the results of the summit, according to the Russian Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko. He has assessed the efficiency of the Commonwealth economic cooperation mechanism as something between bad and satisfactory, and attaches great importance to the development of bilateral cooperation within the Commonwealth. President Nazarbayev is expected to aim at making earlier CIS agreements more specific. President Karimov of Uzbekistan believes that the Minsk summit will be crucial; it is too early to bury the CIS. The Russian and Armenian presidents have just met in Moscow and the Armenian president has said that his country would play a constructive part. The meeting of the Russian and Ukrainian presidents in Moscow is an important event prior to the summit. The Ukrainian prime minister, Kuchma, has said he supports bilateral relations, but Ukraine shouldn't leave the organization given its raw-materials supplying role in the world market.

CIS May Finance Auto Factory

OW1801210293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Participants in the Council of Heads of CIS States plan to consider whether the Commonwealth states will take part in the construction of an auto factory in Elabuga, Tatarstan when they meet in Minsk on January 21. Tatarstan's vice premier, Mansur Khasnullin, told INTERFAX this on Monday [18 January]. He listed the countries planning to enter the construction consortium as Russia, Tatarstan (with a 25% share), Ukraine (15%), Belarus (10%), Uzbekistan (10%), and Kyrgyzstan (5%). The vice premier said they had already closed a principle protocol of intent agreement on participation in the consortium.

Khasnullin said components would be manufactured on the territories of the republics entering the concern. The vice premier said he himself had been named deputy chairman of the commission formed on instructions from Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, which will oversee the construction in Elabuga.

Construction of the factory in Elabuga began in the 1970's. At first they had planned to manufacture tractors, and later, automobiles. At present, construction has been suspended due to lack of funds.

In the future, there are plans for the factory to produce a basic model of the "Oka" economy car. They plan to produce up to 300,000 cars a year.

Military Issues on Agenda

LD1801200493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1940 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—The defence ministers of the CIS member states will hold a meeting in Minsk on January 21, the press centre of the CIS Combined Armed Forces Command said on Monday.

The ministers will discuss draft documents on changes to the agreements on strategic forces, the use of military satellite communications network and long-range radio navigation system in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

They are also expected to consider the implementation of the resolution concerning the development of recommendations on defence issues adopted by the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly on December 29, 1992, as well as additional social welfare and legal guarantees to military observers and CIS peace-keepers and their families.

Belarus Leader Cites 3 Issues

LD1801225593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Video report from Minsk by correspondent L. Sviridov, including recording of interview with Belarus Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Sviridov] Minsk is getting ready for a meeting of heads of state and government of the CIS planned for 22 January. The preliminary agenda of the summit is also being prepared. It is proposed that it will include three major blocks of issues: the signing of the CIS Rules, military issues, and a block of economic issues.

In an interview for Vesti, Belarus Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich said when speaking about the Minsk summit that problems always exist, but it is quite definite that they should not be described as insoluble.

[Addressing Shushkevich] Mr. Shushkevich, will you sign the rules of the Commonwealth, if this issue is on the agenda?

[Shushkevich] I am empowered by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus to sign the rules of the Commonwealth, with the exception of those articles which deal with collective security. I have a dream that it would be nice to have rules which would be signed by everyone without exception.

Omsk Meeting Could Be 'Deciding Factor' for CIS' Future

PM1401151793 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 1

[V. Ovcharov report under the "Echo of the Event" rubric: "Omsk Rubicon"]

[Text] The recent meeting between the heads of government of Russia and Kazakhstan, which had been quickly commented upon and already "forgotten" by democratic television, has meanwhile become an event that could be a deciding factor in the future of the formation called the CIS. Anyone who carefully reads the documents signed by V. Chernomyrdin and S. Tereshchenko in Omsk will realize that the political and economic situation in the former USSR has reached the phase in the crisis when resolute and urgent integrational actions should replace political intrigues for the same of false conceptions of sovereignties.

All this provides grounds for asserting that the meeting between the heads of administration of adjacent territories of Russia and Kazakhstan has finally taken the form of a principled discussion, long-awaited by all sensible citizens of the former USSR. Life itself made this happen. While the leaders of certain newly formed states were nurturing sovereignties and traveling to other countries in search of aid, the economy of the CIS remained in its death throes. Broken ties caused by arrogant decisions turned into the stoppage of enterprises that were still new.

And something happened that had to happen: Having grown tired of waiting for the top leaders to find a common language within the framework of the CIS, the representatives of adjacent territories of Russia and Kazakhstan took the initiative and decided to accommodate one another.

However, President N. Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan must be given his due; he was the first of the CIS countries' leaders to raise the issue of urgently elaborating a mechanism and structures for practical cooperation within the Commonwealth. The result of the understanding between him and Russian President B. Yeltsin was in fact the Omsk meeting.

I would like to believe that the communique on the results of the meeting, which was signed in Omsk and which essentially embraces all spheres of life, will become the saving impetus under whose banner the Minsk meeting will also be held. It has proved possible to cross the Omsk rubicon. Hopes are pinned on the common sense of all those who will gather in the capital of Belarus in the near future.

New Black Sea Fleet Commander Interviewed

PM1901112593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jan 93 p 1

[Interview with Vice Admiral Eduard Baltin, newly appointed commander of the Black Sea Fleet, by Vladimir Maryukha; place and date not given: "Vice Admiral Eduard Baltin: There Is Not Much Water in the Black Sea, but There Is a Lot of Politics"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Excerpts] Agreement has been reached in the course of Russian-Ukrainian high-level talks on the appointment of Vice Admiral Eduard Baltin to the post of commander of the Black Sea Fleet. [passage omitted]

[Maryukha] Eduard Dmitrievich, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA congratulates you on your new appointment. I think that our readers, including Black Sea sailors, will be highly interested to know how you received this decision, and what you are bringing to the fleet.

[Baltin] Thank you for the congratulations. Though I did not consider myself as competing against other candidates. But from the political point of view I understand everything about this decision, and from the professional point of view there are no questions at all. It would be unethical for me to give an assessment of the situation in the Black Sea Fleet before officially taking up my post. Therefore I do not intend to come forward right now with any kind of program statements. But as a military researcher, I can say that from the military-political point of view, things are most difficult for the crews of ships, for the people whose futures are far too uncertain.

[Maryukha] Nevertheless, Eduard Dmitrievich, you have probably formed an opinion about the fate of the Black Sea Fleet, on which both the Russian and the Ukrainian sides have agreed...

[Baltin] The Black Sea is geographically, physically, and politically a watershed in which Russia's interests have always dominated. The situation developing on its shores today is in many ways engendered by the uncertain status in international law of the changed political realities. Georgia, for example, having appropriated part of the fleet, continues to live without definition of the borders of its territorial waters and the other attributes of maritime statehood. The continuing war between

Georgia and Abkhazia can also be related to this, because the Black Sea is the "contraband path" which is feeding the conflict with weapons, narcotics, and the intransigence of the sides.

My task is not to allow confrontation at local level. Any confrontation in which military leaders become embroiled ends in military conflict. In the Black Sea—where for me, as a nuclear scientist who has explored the ocean depths, there is not much water but plenty of politics—confrontation is dangerous both for Ukraine and for Russia. The laws and international agreements of our governments must be observed. This has been the case from as long ago as ancient Rome, where the law, even if it was wrong, was rigorously observed. Only then is there hope that our society will not perish.

[Maryukha] What will be your first action in the fleet?

[Baltin] I do not like cavalier attacks—you either break your saber in them, or run into a bullet. I will arrive, study the situation, and then we will determine in the Fleet Military Council what needs to be done as a matter of priority.

Report on Oil Sales at World Prices Denied

PM1501140593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Mikhail Berger: "Trade in Oil Products at World Prices With CIS Countries So Far of a 'Limited Nature'"]

[Text] The report issued by INTERFAX that since 1 January this year accounts for the output of Russia's petroleum and gas refining enterprises delivered to the CIS countries, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and the Baltic states have been at world prices in dollars or in rubles at the commercial exchange rate (425 rubles to the dollar) has been published in most Russian mass media.

If it really were all that way, if Russia had indeed been selling all petroleum products to nearby foreign parts for dollars, and the CIS and other nearby purchasers had been able to pay in hard currency, then one could only congratulate the Russians on the imminent drastic increase in revenue in this connection.

The telegram from the Ministry of Fuel and Energy which served as the basis for the report was issued by the ministry over two weeks ago and did not give rise to any marked reaction for the simple reason that it concerns only direct agreements between Russian producers directly and their customers in nearby foreign parts. So far the proportion of this trade turnover is relatively small and is not of decisive importance for the economies of the producers and consumers of petroleum products.

It is true that the report quoted stipulates that the new form of accounting will be implemented only if there are no special intergovernment agreements on prices for Russian petroleum products. But the whole point is that it is on the basis of such agreements that the main sales of energy carriers to customers from the former Union are implemented. As Vadim Kirichenko, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Economic Cooperation with CIS States (the department responsible for Russia's economic mutual relations with nearby foreign parts) has reported, such agreements have been signed with virtually all new independent states. They are based not on accounts in dollars and not on payment in rubles at the commercial exchange rate but on clearing.

But the problem is, Vadim Kirichenko adds, that far from all customers can ensure clearing on their side.

To this should be added the fact that there are also problems on the RUssian side. The main one is the reduction in the supply of petroleum and petroleum products by producers inside Russia itself. Of itself this problem faces Russia with a hard choice. It is possible to reduce domestic petroleum consumption, but that will lead to the even more rapid decline of production with all ensuing economic and social consequences (the growth of unemployment). Theoretically it is possible to reduce exports to remote foreign parts but the currency crisis Russia is experiencing gives no grounds for discussing that option. Understandably, the CIS states are most vulnerable as a result of this hard choice.

But the possibilities for maneuvering here too are very limited: The industry of Russia itself depends largely on supplies of initially refined petroleum from adjacent states. Recently Nikolay Popovich, administration chief of the Ukrainian State Committee for Petroleum, stated that if this year ukraine receives less than 30 million tonnes of Russian oil then that will result in catastrophe for the economies of both states.

Vadim Kirichenko reported that last year Ukraine received about 40 million tonnes of Russian petroleum but this year Russia can supply no more than 40 percent of last year's level. As we can see, that is half the absolute minimum mentioned by the representative of the Ukrainian State Committee for Petroleum Products.

A few words should also be said about prospects on the plane of principles. Experts taking part in talks on the rules of trading between the former republics are reaching a rather strange conclusion: The further removed a state is politically from Russia, the simpler it is to reach agreement. And vice versa. There are virtually no problems in establishing the rules of the game with the Baltic countries while the talks with Belarus, for instance, are hard and not always productive. That is explained by the fact that it is hard for Estonia to lay claim to anything other than accounts in hard currency, but our partners in the CIS are insisting on special terms and are asking for technical credits, which far from always accords with Russia's interests.

And we have very special relations with Ukraine, which has decided to establish a most-favored nation regime

with Russia. That sounds optimistic, but specialists realize that the most-favored nation regime will put Ukraine, in trade relations with Russia, on a par with any other Western or Eastern state, while a free trade regime is being established with other partners from nearby foreign parts.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Jan

LD1501111993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0612 GMT 16 Jan 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 16 TASS—Today's press reports Friday's meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his Ukrainian counterpart Leonid Kravchuk.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (Independent Newspaper) writes that, unlike Russia which has been recently trying to act as an "assembler," getting CIS countries together to form a certain new confederative entity, the president of Ukraine suggested signing two documents that would regulate the status of CIS countries. The documents strongly differ from the "quite rigid" provisions of a CIS charter which is to be considered at the forthcoming CIS summit later this month.

PRAVDA carries an address by the Unions of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Russia and Ukraine to the leaders of these countries, describing the need "to take resolute measures to restore businesslike economic relations and take Russia and Ukraine out of the heavy crisis."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an article by Professor Boris Grushin, director of the Public Opinion Service, who points out that Boris Yeltsin, according to the findings of public opinion polls, remained the most influential political figure of Russia throughout last year. He had the highest popularity rating in the period of April to September.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) reports that 263 attacks on Russian servicemen were made on the territory of Georgia last year, with twenty-nine people killed. The last two months of the year were particularly tense: there were 30 attacks and four of them entailed a tragic outcome. Three military depots were plundered in the period of November to December. The damage inflicted is estimated at slightly less than 1,000 million rubles.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, with reference to a document which came into the possession of the newspaper's editorial office, writes about breaches in trade-and-economic activities in the Central Offrice staff of the Russian Ministry of Defence and the Western Group of Russian Troops (WGT) (stationed in Germany—note by ITAR-TASS) in 1991-1992.

It is reported that the breaches were uncovered as a result of an audit carried out by the Control Department of the President's Administration of the Russian Federation together with specialists from Defence and Security Ministries, the office of the Procurator- General and the Central Bank of Russia.

The newspaper gives the following fact: WGT officials "transferred 17 million Deutsche marks to the accounts of three foreign firms at the banks of the United States, Switzerland, and Finland, with infringements of financial discipline in June-July 1991."

Under the rubric "an opinion," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries Yevgeniy Krutikov's article headlined "South Ossetia may open a second front against Georgia." The writer of the article points out that aid which South Ossetia gave to Abkhazia has increased of late.

"Russia now is practically lacking a single Caucasian policy. Instead, it has several departmental concepts for conduct in the region. The concepts at times not only fail to coincide with one another but sometimes are diamentrically opposite.

"At the same time a desire of the main Russian bodies to support the power of the now Parliament chairman of Georgia is now predominating. The present Russian Government and most presidential agencies have hardly decided upon what Russia would do in the event of South Ossetia's or Abkhazia's unexpected independent steps capable of destabilising the situation in Tbilisi," Krutikov maintains.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out that the armed confrontation in Abkhazia has been continuing for five months. Some military experts believe that the aggregate number of those killed on the Georgian and Abkhazian sides may amount to 2,000.

PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA run draft rules of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, which are expected to be endorsed at a contemplated "restorational-and-unifying congress."

19 Jan Press Review

LD1901073193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0703 GMT 19 Jan 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—A referendum, scheduled for April 11, this year, on the fundamentals of a new constitution of Russia remains the focus of attention in the press.

"A failure of the referendum may bear most heavily not only on the president and parliament of the country but also on the entire system of nascent Russian democracy" is the opinion expressed in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (Independent Newspaper) by Andrey Fyodorov, adviser to the vice-president of Russia.

His conviction is that for the referendum to be a success it is essential to hold a special roundtable meeting prior

to a parliamentary discussion of the wording of questions being brought up for the referendum.

Such a roundtable meeting, in Fyodorov's view, should be chaired by the country's president and attended by the leaders of the Russian Federation's republics, regions, and all blocs and parties represented in parliament as well as by part of the opposition that has no direct representation in parliament.

"Only in that case, there may appear hope for a civilised compromise capable of ensuring a constructive discussion of all matters connected with the referendum and forge national concord which is needed so much now," Fyodorov emphasises.

"Referendum is not the best form of making constitutional decisions: too complex is the problem and in this case there is too little time for people to get to the core of it," writes the newspaper TRUD.

"But we are, perhaps, in a deadlocked situation, and there is no other way out, for to give full control over the fundamental law to the congress, which is being torn asunder by contradictions and which is out of touch with real life in many respects, would be even worse than that. We cannot fail to see that while parliamentarians, the president and the government engage in fruitless arguments, the state power is being eroded," TRUD points out.

Touching upon the privatisation vouchers' investment problem, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA points out that if the Russian parliament, which on Tuesday begins the consideration of the bill "on the priority of the work collectives of state and municipal enterprises in the choice of forms of privatisation and transfer of state property to other owners," adopts the above-mentioned document, "the privatisation cheques would be virtually worthless, and one could well paste walls with them."

The newspaper maintains that in that case privatisation vouchers would be given up as a hopeless case because about one per cent of the shares of state enterprises, not 40-50 per cent, would be up for privatisation cheque auctions. "Such auctions would simply become senseless," KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA concludes.

The uncertainty of the status of changed political realities in many respects has been brought on by the situation taking shape on the Black Sea coast, Vice-Admiral Eduard Baltin, who was recently appointed the commander of the Black Sea Fleet upon agreement between the Russian and Ukrainian sides, said in an interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) in comment on the situation in that region of the former Soviet Union.

Visualising his task in preventing confrontation "at the local level," the vice-admiral expresses conviction that only a strict observance of the laws and governmental agreements is an earnest of the survival of society.

Vyacheslav Bragin, the newly appointed director of the Ostankino Television Network, in an interview with KOMSOMOLSAKAYA PRAVDA, stated readiness to carry on the dialogue, started in the parliamentary committee on the media, with representatives of various political trends.

Bragin emphasised that "it is now ridiculous to speak about an informational blockade of the opposition"—so often opposition leaders appear on television screens.

According to the activists of the international Nevada-Semipalatinsk anti-nuclear movement, 13 out of 22 test sites in Kazakhstan have already been declassified, says an article by Sergey Kozlov in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

A survey at the Azgir test site in Atyraus region has shown that at least 17 nuclear detonations were carried out there since the middle of the 1960s, Koslov points out.

The emergence of new independent states—the former Soviet Republics of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan—has created a new geopolitical situation in the vast region south of the Russian borders, writes today's PRAVDA.

An article by Vladimir Danilov, Dr. of Science (history) deals with the problems of these Turkic-language countries and the revitalisation of their contacts with Turkey.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA announces that the Trudovaya Moskva movement and its member parties and organisations intend to lay wreaths at Lenin Mausoleum on January 21st, the day of commemoration for Vladimir I. Lenin.

Further Reportage on Situation, Bombing in Iraq

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement

LD1801170293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1645 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—The following is the full text of the statement made by the Russian Foreign Ministry on Monday [18 January]:

"The situation around Iraq has once again gone beyond the critical point. There are casualties among civilians, which is especially regrettable. The keys to the normalisation of the situation are in Baghdad, which has repeatedly ignored warnings. It should be clear that the way out is in full implementation of U.N. Security Council decisions. This will help to ease the situation in the Gulf region and provide security and territorial integrity guarantees to Iraq's neighbours and Iraq itself.

We firmly believe that there should be an adequate reaction to Iraq's actions which must be based on concerted decisions. The situation obviously needs to be considered by the U.N. Security Council.

The safety of the Russian community in Baghdad is of paramount importance to us. We have informed the American side about our concerns. We also want Iraq to know about them."

Political Settlement 'Priority'

LD1901155593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1518 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Ryabikin and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—The Russian essential stand as regards Iraq and its approaches to the settlement around Iraq have not changed. Russia advocates strict Iraqi fulfillment of all decisions taken by the U.N. Security Council on the state, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Directorate Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a briefing here today.

There should be no doubt Baghdad must fulfill absolutely all decisions of the Security Council and the international community, he added.

At the same time, Russia expresses regret over civilian casualties in Iraq, said the Foreign Ministry representative. "We have called attention to the fact some missiles hit civilian not military facilities. That is why, there appears a wording, saying the reaction to recent 'Iraqi provocative actions' should be adequate from the point of view of consequences.

"We give absolute priority to political means of the conflict settlement," he said.

In Russia's opinion, the need for collective discussion within the U.N. Security Council framework on the situation around Iraq has ripened in connection with the latest events. Sergey Yastrzhembskiy noted Russia has not officially raised the question of a new discussion on Iraq at the United Nations and has not appealed to the multi-national forces to stop bombing of Iraq.

The Russian Foreign Ministry representative said about 70 Russian citizens, personnel of the Russian representation, are currently in Iraq. These people are involved in "normal diplomatic, economic and other activities corresponding to their status".

Kozyrev May Convene Security Council

OW1901150193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1447 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] There are enough grounds to consider the possibility of convening the U.N. Security Council for a session to discuss the situation in and around Iraq, said Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev, on Tuesday [19 January]. He answered reporter's questions upon conclusion of the morning talks with his Belarusian counterpart, Petr Kravchenko, who had arrived in Moscow for a one-day working visit.

He has no doubt, that the practical implementation of the Security Council resolutions concerning Iraq "should be stepped up", since Baghdad does not wish to comply with them strictly. Nevertheless, he noted that Russia and the coalition forces could cooperate more closely in regard to "concrete details" of their actions. The safety of Russian citizens who are in Baghdad now is "extremely important" to Russia, the foreign minister said.

According to him, the attitudes of Moscow officials and the leaders of the Persian Gulf States, with whom telephone conversations were conducted in the past few days, to the present situation concerning Iraq, "coincide". As for the Russian ships stationed in the Gulf, they are there for the purpose of "strengthening stability in the region".

Kozyrev Calls Gulf Ministers

LD1801193793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1902 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1938 GMT on 18 January transmits a service message killing the item below; subsequently, Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1912 GMT on 18 January transmits a "corrected version" of this report, deleting Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir from the list of leaders receiving calls from Kozyrev.]

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev phoned Foreign Ministers Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates and Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir of Kuwait on Monday [18 January] to discuss the situation in the region following

the recent allied operations in Iraq in retaliation to its repeated violations of U.N Security Council resolutions.

The foreign ministers praised Russia's consistent policy in support of international law, security and stability in the region.

Report on Iraqi Embassy Briefing

LD1901164593 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Correspondent's report from the Iraqi Embassy in Moscow; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] At a news conference in the Iraqi Embassy in Moscow it was stated today that the latest missile strike inflicted by the United States has shown, and I quote, America's fraudulence and concealed spite against the people of Iraq. Iraqi Ambassador Ghafil Jasim Husayn stated that problems in cooperation between Iraq and the United Nations have arisen as a result of interference in the activity of inspection groups by U.S. intelligence agents. Having fulfilled the majority of its obligations under the UN Security Council resolution, the ambassador believes, Iraq cannot accept what is decided by the United States, Great Britain, and France on behalf of the UN.

The embassy's statement says the Tomahawk missiles were fired not at a nuclear facility but at an ordinary factory producing components—it is true that he did not specify what kind. The introduction of prohibited zones in the northern and southern parts of Iraq are seen by the Iraqi ambassador as an attempt to dismember the state. Incidentally, the ambassador noted that what happened was a total surprise to the Russian diplomats who had been invited to Bahgdad the day before, 17 January.

Russia did not take part in the armed attack, but neither did it condemn the aggression against Iraq—this is how the current Russian position is being assessed at the Iraqi Embassy.

Civic Union Questions Moscow's Role

OW1501173993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1707 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Civic Union would like to know whether the military action against Iraq had been agreed with Russia, Vasily Lipitskiy, the Union's Executive Committee's chairman told Diplomatic Panorama. Lipitskiy said that a positive response would mean that a "very narrow circle of individuals had taken on the collossal responsibility for events which may have long term consequences." "If Russia has not been consulted," he continued, "this means that Russia is no longer considered a great power and member of the UN Security Council."

Aleksandr Sterligov, the Chairman of the Russian National Assembly's Executive Committee and a former KGB general, declined to give his view on the action against Iraq. "We do not yet possess sufficient information as to whether there was any real provocation by Saddam Husayn," he told Diplomatic Panorama.

Sterligov did, however, condemn actions "undertaken against muslims." "All matters must be resolved by negotiation, and not by military action," he said.

Saddam Speech Contradicts Envoy's

PM1501140993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jan 93 pp 1, 3

[Georgiy Stepanov report: "Allied Attack Lasted 30 Minutes. The United States, Britain, and France Deliver Bombing Strike on Iraq"]

[Excerpts] At 0915 hours Baghdad time on 13 January, U.S., British, and French warplanes delivered a missile and bomb strike against antiaircraft complexes in southern Iraq. [passage omitted]

According to numerous statements by representatives of the Washington administration and politicians in London and Paris, it is not a question of resuming the war. The aim of the air raid was to force Baghdad to comply with the ban on flights in the zone south of the 32d parallel. A threat was posed to the coalition air forces not only by Iraqi MiG's, which have been infiltrating the forbidden region, but also "surface-to-air" missiles, some of which, according to recent information, Iraq has failed to relocate to the north. It was Iraq's air defense complexes, and not its audacious raids into Kuwait or any other circumstances, which prompted the West's military action.

ASSOCIATED PRESS notes that the event took place seven days before the end of the Bush administration's term of office. [passage omitted]

Baghdad's reaction to the event has been twofold. Iraq is ready to fulfill the Security Council's two demands—to end incursions into Kuwaiti territory, and to allow the planes of the UN special commission to fly to Iraq, Nizar Hamdun, Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations, informed foreign agency correspondents. "We will no longer remove equipment from Kuwait," the diplomat said.

His statements at first sight appear to be a concession to the world community and a capitulation to the West's military superiority, so clearly demonstrated to Iraq. But how then is Saddam Husayn's statement on Baghdad television, called "historic" by official Iraqi propaganda, to be explained? The president appeared on the screen in marshal's uniform. "A new battle of jihad has begun, and Allah will send us victory," he stated. "Heroes of the war against Iran, participants in the 'mother of all battles' against the aggressors in 1991, valiant men of the air

defense forces, falcons of our proud combat aviation, fight as you fought against the enemies of Allah before." [passage omitted]

Official Notes 'Warning Strike'

PM1501163393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Jan 93 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko report: "Force, If Not Reason, Will Compel Iraq To Carry Out UN Resolution"]

[Text] Saddam Husayn has miscalculated again. Hoping that George Bush would not undertake any active operations in the last days of his presidency, the president of Iraq tried to change the status quo that took shape after the Persian Gulf War.

"In defiance of the UN Security Council Resolution prohibiting the stationing of armed forces in the southern, demilitarized area of the country," Viktor Gogitidze, acting chief of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Near East Administration, explained to your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent, "Iraqi military units equipped with antiaircraft missile systems carried out a raid on the restricted area and there seized military kit and equipment which was scheduled for destruction. Obviously this step had its consequences. The United States, Britain, France, and Russia categorically demanded that Iraq withdraw its missiles stationed south of the 32d parallel, established by the United Nations as the border for the demilitarized zone. Baghdad did not heed this warning either, so the inevitable happened: A warning strike was delivered against the Iraqi troop positions...

From American command reports we know that exclusively military targets were chosen—antiaircraft missile systems, surface-to-surface class Scud missiles, combat aircraft, and military airfields. Unfortunately, people were also killed. Furthermore another volley, even more destructive, could be fired if Baghdad tries to undertake any reciprocal actions. The forces are available to do this: At least 200 combat aircraft and around 18,500 servicemen are stationed in Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and on board the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. There are 13 U.S. Navy ships operating in the Gulf zone.

The support of U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton also gives G. Bush confidence. George Stefanopoulos, a representative of his administration, stated notably that Bill Clinton intends to deal with the Iraqi leader "as resolutely as Bush is doing." "We will not put up with any violations by Iraq of the UN (Persian Gulf) cease-fire resolution," he added.

"Force, if not reason, will compel Saddam Husayn to carry out the UN resolution," Gogitidze concluded. "The Russian Foreign Ministry is in constant contact with all the interested parties through our embassies in these countries and in the Security Council. And we hope that military action will go no further than a warning strike by the coalition forces."

Legality of Strike 'Contentious'

PM1801095593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jan 93 p 3

[Georgiy Stepanov report: "Washington Does Not Rule Out Possibility of Second Strike Against Iraq"]

[Excerpts] When the roar of the exploding bombs dropped by the allied planes had died away in southern Iraq, retaliatory moves by Baghdad might have been expected. It was presumed that Iraq would attack the planes patroling the "no-fly zone" and fire Scud missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia. But nothing of the kind has ensued. [passage omitted]

News agencies are drawing attention to the fact that the legal justification for the operation is highly contentious. Its military aim was to ensure the safety of U.S., British, and French aircraft in the region south of the 32d parallel. But these "no-fly zones" (the second is in northern Iraq) were set up not by the Security Council, but by the will of the allies. In justification of this the West cited UN Security Council resolution 688 adopted in April 1991 which condemned Baghdad for repressing the Kurds and Shi'ites. In the opinion of a number of experts, mainly Arabs, the "no-fly zones" are unlawful and therefore the case for bombing Iraq was invalid.

Politicians in the majority of the world's states, however, are not splitting hairs in that way. Husayn has been given a good lesson for the future and that is the main thing, they believe. As Bill Clinton stated, he does not intend normalizing relations with the Iraqi leader until the latter changes his ways. U.S. officials do not rule out the possibility of a second strike against Iraq and in the near future, too.

Just a few countries—Sudan, Yemen, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, and India—and the PLO are openly demonstrating a negative attitude to the West's military action. China, Iran, Egypt, and Algeria are avoiding direct condemnation and have declared their concern at the deterioration of the situation in the Persian Gulf.

Comment on Iraqi Hopes for Clinton

LD1701211793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 17 Jan 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The situation around Iraq remains highly interesting. The American ABC Television Company reported an hour ago that the United Stateshas launched a missile attack on Baghdad. A few hours prior to that, the allies shot down an Iraqi plane. This was in response to the firing against allied planes on three occasions in the no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

[Correspondent A. Zinenko] This was reported by White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater. The United States, in his words, is continuing to look at all options for responding to Iraqi policy. We are ready to defend

ourselves and, if need be, to act resolutely. In the meantime, Saddam Husayn stated today that plans for new aggression against Iraq are doomed to failure. The Iraqi leader was speaking in a television address to the people. Today, the Iraqis were marking the second anniversary of the war in the Persian Gulf.

However, in spite of the pugnacious rhetoric, Saddam remains a pragmatist and knows where it is time to stop. The Iraqi president does not need a second desert storm. That would be too great a risk for his regime. On the other hand, as one Western diplomat put it, limited air strikes against Iraq even play into Husayn's hands. During bombing, the army is fully engaged and keeps out of politics, and that means that potential rivals to Husayn among the military have no time for a putsch. Added to that, Iraq hopes that it will be easier to reach an understanding with Bill Clinton. To this day, Bill Clinton's election promises are remembered with pleasure in Baghdad. He gave assurances that he would pay greater attention not to international policy but to domestic problems.

Moscow Concerned for Russians in Baghdad

OW1801130093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1236 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A senior employee of the Russian Foreign Ministry expressed "a great regret" due to human casualties caused by the military activities of the coalition forces against Iraq on January 17-18. In his interview with Interfax Viktor Gogitidze, the acting chief of the countries of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department, declared that "it is one thing to strike military sites and quite another - when civil sites suffer from strikes."

According to the information from Iraq, on Sunday [17 January], one of the rockets hit the Baghdad hotel "Al-Rashid" and caused human casualties. "We are not indifferent because there is a large Russian colony, 60 in number, in Baghdad," the diplomat noted.

Gogitidze said that on Sunday and Monday he met with the representatives of the US Embassy in Moscow and expressed Moscow's great concern over the fate of Russians in Baghdad.

The diplomat underlined that Russia has repeatedly addressed the Iraqi leadership with an appeal to implement practical moves towards an unconditional fulfillment of the UN Security Council's resolutions. There is no alternative to this.

However, simultaneously we can see, Gogitidze said, that the reaction of the coalition with respect to Iraq's actions is "inadequate." According to him, this reaction "should consider the situation around Iraq as well."

The senior employees of the Russian Foreign Ministry expressed doubt that Iraq would change its position towards "a sound sense" just yet. He sticks to the opinion that the current actions of the United States have failed to reach the planned aim and are "conterproductive."

Well informed sources told Interfax that, on Monday, the presidential press secretary would probably circulate a statement concerning the events in Iraq.

Air Strikes Viewed as 'Rash'

LD1801192593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov]

[Excerpts] The United States and its Western allies attacked Baghdad and its suburbs with Cruise missiles on Sunday [17 January] and Monday. As it was after the first air raid earlier last week civilian casualties are reported in Iraq this time too. Comment is by Vladislav Kozyakov and this is what he writes:

Of course no one should be allowed to violate the Security Council resolutions and Saddam Husayn's actions in defiance of the United Nations decisions cannot remain unpunished. But how should the world community respond this time?

When Iraq occupied Kuwait the U.S. reaction was unequivocal. After a series of warnings the Security Council sanctioned the use of all necessary means to force the aggressor out of Kuwait. An unprecedented coalition emerged as a result. Today's situation is different. Although Husayn's defiance of the UN resolutions is certainly deplorable, Iraq is not threatening its neighbors.

In the past few weeks there has been talk about such problems as a withdrawal of Iraqi anti-aircraft missiles from the no-fly zones in the north and south of the country, an end to infiltration by Iraqi groups into Kuwait for capturing arms there and flights by United Nations inspectors to Iraq. There have been intensive negotiations on all these matters between Baghdad and the United Nations.

Have not the decisions of the outgoing U.S. Administration to attack Iraq with missiles been rash? And will not Mr. Bush's final salvo boomerang on the proclaimed goals of American policy?

One such aim is to do away with Saddam Husayn and his clique. However, American bombs and missiles will more likely augment anti-Western feelings and will reinforce the positions of the regime in Iraq. (?Nor) will another objective be closer to help unite the international coalition forced [as heard] after Iraq's invasion in Kuwait.

Military action by Washington, London, and Paris just help [as heard] Baghdad to disunite the allies. This is

evident from reports that have come from various countries. Some countries, participants in the anti-Iraqi coalition two years ago, are now trying to distance themselves from military strikes on Iraq. [passage omitted]

Of course further developments in the Gulf wholly depend on Baghdad's readiness to respect the United Nations resolutions. But positive and more balanced steps by Washington could be instrumental as well. In this respect a statement by the President-elect Bill Clinton in an interview with the "NEW YORK TIMES" looks promising. Mr. Clinton voiced his readiness to do business with the regime in Baghdad if it changes its behavior and meets the United Nations demands. Such an approach may be conducive for diplomacy.

Ministry Official on Naval Presence in Persian Gulf

OW1501173393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1707 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Viktor Gogitidze, the acting head of the Russian foreign ministry's Near Eastern division, has called the parliamentary opposition's demand to discuss Russia's military presence in the Persian Gulf counterproductive. In an interview with Diplomatic Panorama, Gogitidze pointed out that the Russian warship "Admiral Tributs" was not carrying out any military function while located in the Gulf and was not accountable to the contra-Iraqi coalition forces' joint command. "The warship is in the Persian Gulf to display the Russian flag and join military and political efforts to maintain security," the diplomat said.

Gogitidze repeated that the Russian warship had been sent to the Persian Gulf at the request of the states of the region. He said that "they (the states) are currently in favour of maintaining Russia's limited military presence in the Gulf waters, and no contradictions to this must be entertained."

Gogitidze also said that Soviet warships were also present in the Persian Gulf during the Iran-Iraq war. "This did not give rise to any kind of dispute," he commented.

The diplomat pointed out regarding relations with Iraq that, if Baghdad were to satisfy the UN Security Council's requirements, then "our line on Iraq would change." He added "we will have arguments for the prevention of hostilities which not only do not please us, but also cause our regret."

He called the Russian opposition's claim that if Russia had not backed international sanctions against Baghdad she would have been showered by "golden rain from Iraq" wrong. "All of Iraq's assets have been frozen, and the sale of Iraqi oil has been restricted. Besides this, Iraq ceased its debt repayment to the former USSR when the Iran-Iraq war was still being fought. Baghdad, it is true, paid its debts back in oil which the former USSR re-exported to India," he said.

Ships 'Far Away From' Combat Zone

LD1501195893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1820 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow January 15 TASS—During the allied operation in southern Iraq on January 13, Russian ships were far away from the combat zone, Valentin Selivanov, chief of the Russian main naval headquarters, said.

Addressing the Russian Parliament on Friday [15 January], Selivanov said a Russian anti-submarine ship and tanker were sent to the Persian Gulf on the order of President Boris Yeltsin to join the international peacekeeping contingent in the region. The ships left the Russian far eastern port of Vladivostok on December 5, 1992 and arrived in the Persian Gulf on January 1, 1993.

"The Navy command is monitoring and analysing the military and political situation in all major ocean and sea zones, especially in the Persian Gulf," Selivanov said.

"We foresaw the course of events and gave instructions to our ships so that they carry out their mission to support U.N. sanctions against Iraq," Selivanov said.

"When it became clear that the strike against Iraqi air-defence system is inevitable, the main naval headquarters ordered its ships to leave the northern part of the Persian Gulf and sent the anti-submarine ship Admiral Tributs on a business mission to the port of al-Manamah in Bahrain, while the tanker Ilim remained in southern part of the Persian Gulf near the port Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates," Selivanov said.

He said activities of the Russian Navy "are in line with the foreign policy of the Russian Federation."

Navy Spokesman Denies Involvement

OW1601140193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A high-ranking officer from the Russian navy's General Staff said the movement of the Russian warship Admiral Tributs through the Persian Gulf has nothing to do with the recent raid on Iraq.

He told Interfax that on Friday [15 January] the ship headed for Abu Dhabi, where the tanker Ilim is having scheduled maintenance repairs, which are expected to be over in 10 days.

Near Abu Dhabi, the General Staff spokesman said, the Admiral Tributs will be refueled and will replenish its stocks of food and drinking water.

On January 13-15, he said, the ship was in the port of Manama, capital of Bahrain, where Russian and U.S. officers had a meeting. Russian and U.S. naval forces are in permanent contact in the gulf, the officer said.

Before January 12, the Admiral Tributs was in the northern part of the gulf, interacting with U.S.S. Warden, one of the vessels guarding the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. However, the Russian ship took no part in the attack on Iraq, the Russian officer said.

"The ship is in the Persian Gulf to fly the Russian flag," he said.

After calling at Abu Dhabi, the Admiral Tributs is planning to have joint exercises with H.M.S. Nottingham in the southern part of the gulf, after which it will return to Gulf's northern part to monitor the area with radars.

Ships on 'Own Mission'

LD1801172293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1630 GMT 18 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—The Russian warships are performing their own mission in the Persian Gulf and are not subordinated to the multinational forces command in the region, Russian Navy Commander Feliks Gromov said on Monday [18 January].

Gromov said the Russian Navy Command is monitoring the situation in the Gulf to ensure the safety of the ships.

The anti-submarine ship Admiral Tributs and tanker Boris Butoma are in the Gulf to show Russia's support to the U.N. sanctions against Iraq, Gromov said.

He added that there are no Russian warships in the Adriatic Sea near Yugoslavia.

Further Gromov Comment

LD1901166093 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Many people are currently interested in what mission is being carried out by Russian warships in the Persian Gulf. Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Navy, replied to this question in an interview with military journalists.

[Begin Gromov recording] Our warships are in the Persian Gulf for the purpose of carrying out those tasks given to the Navy by our government. The government and the president have set this task—demonstrating support for the UN sanctions against Iraq. So our warships are there independently, they are not subordinate to any multinational forces, they only act according to our plans, and we are keeping an eye so that they should, in this regard, be in a safe place, and there is of course no threat. [end recording]

Zhirinovskiy's Party Forms Volunteer Detachment for Iraq

OW1801121593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1142 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party, led by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, said on Monday [18 January] that the party's sixth interregional conference, held in Moscow on Sunday, "unanimously condemned the pro-American policy of the Russian Foreign Ministry." Conference delegates picketed the U.S. Embassy in Moscow on Sunday, and held a demonstration on the capital's Sovetstkaya Square to show their support for Iraq. The party formed a detachment of Afghan war veterans to be sent to Iraq to help President Saddam Husayn, the party's press service said.

The conference passed a resolution on the current situation and formulated tasks for the local organizations of the party to be carried out before the latter's fourth congress, scheduled for April.

Further Reportage on Yeltsin Meeting With Kravchuk

Joint Communique on Summit

LD1501200893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1840 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jan—The text of the joint communique on the meeting between the state delegations of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, headed by President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine, follows below:

A meeting took place on 15 January 1993 in Moscow between the state delegations of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, which were headed by B.N. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, and L.M. Kravchuk, president of Ukraine.

During the meeting there was a frank exchange of opinions on a broad range of questions of mutual interest.

1. Having briefed each other on the political, economic, and social processes in their states, the presidents confirmed the immutability of the course chosen for implementing broad-scale economic reforms, the transition to a market economy, and the democratization of all spheres of state and public life, and spoke in favor of the development of comprehensive cooperation between Russia and Ukraine along these lines.

2. It was stressed at the meeting that Russian-Ukrainian relations have special priority for both states. The strengthening of these ties on the basis of the treaty between Russia and Ukraine of 19 November 1990 and the Dagomys agreement between Russia and Ukraine on the further development of interstate relations signed by the leaders of the two countries not only serves the interests of the peoples of Ukraine and Russia but is also of great international significance.

Noting the desire of both sides to raise bilateral interstate relations to a qualitatively new level, the presidents expressed the resolve to strengthen their treaty and legal base.

3. It was found that as a result of the division of labor which has arisen historically, the economic complexes of Russia and Ukraine remain very closely interlinked and interdependent.

The sides noted with anxiety that the unjustified destruction of economic ties between enterprises, untimely actions to settle issues of mutual payments, and a few other factors are having an extremely negative effect on the state of both the Ukrainian and the Russian economies.

The sides agreed to step up work to establish ties which meet the new conditions, at the interstate level and between enterprises, on principles of equality and mutual advantage.

The sides agreed to set up a Russian-Ukrainian economic coordination council.

4. The presidents agreed to issue the relevant instructions regarding the final settlement of all questions on servicing the debts and the assets of the former USSR.

5. The presidents confirmed the intent of Russia and Ukraine to continue efforts aimed at reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons, which will be an important contribution to building a world free from the threat of nuclear self-destruction.

The president of Ukraine acknowledged with satisfaction the ratification by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation of a package of documents connected with START I and confirmed the Ukraine's resolve also to ratify these documents.

The president of the Russian Federation welcomed the steps undertaken by Ukraine to ensure its self-proclaimed non-nuclear status.

The Ukrainian president positively assessed the signing by the Russian Federation and the United States of the START II Treaty.

6. The Russian Federation president stated that Russia is ready, before Ukraine's ratification of the START I Treaty and the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, to give Ukraine guarantees of its security, which will come into force after Ukraine's ratification of these documents. The text of the guarantees will be prepared as soon as possible.

7. With a view to guaranteeing the nuclear and ecological safety of strategic nuclear forces in Russia and Ukraine, the sides agreed to define a system of material and technical provision and of carrying out warranty work and supervision by the original manufacturer [vypolneniye rabot po garanteynomy I avtorskomu nadzoru] over the use of strategic nuclear forces' missile systems on the part of Russia. The Governments of the Russian Federation and Ukraine have issued instructions to prepare and conclude within a month concrete agreements guaranteeing the implementation of this accord.

8. The presidents of the Russian Federation and Ukraine have instructed their governments immediately to begin talks with a view to settling all questions connected with the implementation of the START treaty, including the conditions for the dismantling, transportation, and destruction of nuclear warheads and the missile system items [element] of strategic nuclear forces deployed on the territory of Ukraine, including questions of reprocessing nuclear components for use as fuel for Ukrainian nuclear electric power stations.

9. The sides examined the question of progress in the fulfillment of the 3 August 1992 Yalta agreement between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the principles of the formation of Russia's Naval Forces and Ukraine's Naval Forces on the basis of the Black Sea Fleet of the former USSR. It was noted that the state delegations of the Russian Federation and Ukraine have carried out work which has made it possible to sign an agreement on the naval emblems of the Black Sea Fleet for the transition period.

The presidents of the Russian Federation and Ukraine adopted a joint decision on the appointment of Vice Admiral E.D. Baltin as commander of the Black Sea Fleet.

At the same time the heads of states noted the recent slowing-down of the pace of the talks on the matter at issue, as a result of which the package of documents provided for by the Yalta agreement was not prepared within the set time.

The president of the Russian Federation and the president of Ukraine agreed to instruct the respective state delegations to complete the drawing up of the documents on the implementation of the Yalta agreement as soon as possible.

10. The presidents agreed that in the interests of protecting the rights and interests of Russian citizens on the territory of Ukraine and of Ukrainians on the territory of Russia, both sides should urgently open consular establishments, first and foremost in the places most densely populated by their citizens on the other side's territory.

The Foreign Ministries of both countries have been instructed to step up the process of further expanding the

treaty basis and legal foundations of interstate relations, with efforts being concentrated initially on a range of financial, economic, and humanitarian questions.

The sides exchanged opinions on the question of dual citizenship.

11. The sides advocated the peaceful settlement of the conflicts in the CIS member states and a speeding up of the stage of politically resolution of the Dniester region conflict by direct negotiations between Chisinau and Tiraspol to determine the legal status of the left-bank rayons of the Republic of Moldova and involving the CSCE and other mechanisms.

12. V.S. Chernomyrdin, the Russian Federation head of government, and L.D. Kuchma, the Ukrainian head of government, signed an agreement on scientific, technical, and economic cooperation in the sphere of atomic energy and on the principles of cooperation and the terms of their mutual relations in the sphere of transport. They also signed a protocol on the stage-by-stage introduction of free trade conditions, on non-trade payments, and on labor activity and the social protection of the citizens of Russia and Ukraine who are working outside their own states.

Foreign Ministers A.V. Kozyrev and A.M. Zlenko signed a consular convention between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

13. Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk emphasized the useful nature of top-level meetings and expressed a readiness for the practice to be continued.

The meeting took place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and constructive dialogue.

Transdniesterian Region Discussed

OW1501142393 Moscow INTERFAX in Eng[illegible] 1413 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Reliable sources close to the delegations of both countries which are conducting negotiations in the Kremlin now told INTERFAX correspondents that Russia and Ukraine have reached an agreement with respect to the appointment of the Black Sea Fleet commander, Eduard Baltin.

Vice Admiral E. Baltin is the chief of the naval chair of the General Staff Academy of the Russian Armed Forces, he is a Hero of the Soviet Union and a former submariner.

The negotiations were begun with a private conversation between Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk. Then other members of the delegations joined them. According to the same sources, during the negotiations the parties declared about their adherence to the course aimed at widescale economic reforms. At the same time they underlined that the Russian-Ukrainian relations have a special priority character for both states.

Speaking about the situation in "hot-spots", the parties paid special attention to the situation in the Transdniesterian region of Moldova. According to unofficial data, the Ukrainian delegation expressed its readiness to send peacekeeping forces to the security zone in Transdniesteria, including the forces to guard the Dubossary hydro electric station, in case Tiraspol and Chisinau agree to this proposal.

Ukraine's Nuclear Status Discussed

LD1501180693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1630 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jan—In conversation with journalists after the end of the Russian-Ukrainian talks, the presidents of Russia and Ukraine touched upon problems of nuclear weapons. Boris Yeltsin said that Leonid Kravchuk had confirmed Ukraine's position: it will be a non-nuclear state and will sign the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

"It was also decided to elaborate and to sign a special agreement of a technical nature on how the dismantling of missiles and the destruction of nuclear warheads should be carried out," the Russian president said by way of elaboration.

At the same time, Boris Yeltsin stated, "Russia gives a guarantee that the integrity of Ukraine will be preserved and protected, and that its borders will be defended against nuclear attack."

"I fully confirm what Boris Yeltsin said," Leonid Kravchuk noted. "Ukraine has determined its policies and it does not intend to change them. I am sure that the parliament of Ukraine, taking account of the initiative of Russia to guarantee to defend its security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity ... will be able to confirm its earlier decision on the nuclear-free status of our state."

Kravchuk Suggests Sharing Fleet Costs

LD1501155793 Moscow ITAR-TASS Service in English 1454 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 15 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk suggested on Friday [15 January] Russia pay 50 per cent of the expenses borne by Ukraine to keep the Black Sea Fleet.

The proposal was made in a letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin from Kravchuk, the press centre of the Black Sea Fleet told ITAR-TASS.

A press centre official said Ukraine has adopted a decision to increase wages to the fleet personnel. In

addition, Ukrainian Defence Minister Konstantin Morozov issued an order on December 16, 1992 prohibiting army officers who are not residents of Ukraine to serve in the Ukrainian armed forces. This will also apply to Interior Ministry, border and other special troop officers.

Yeltsin Summarizes 'Problems'

LD1501170693 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newcast]

[Text] A meeting took place in the Kremlin today between the presidents of Russia and Ukraine. The purpose of the talks is to determine a concept of relations between the two countries, namely whether they will be confined, as in the past, to the CIS or will become bilateral. An equally important issue at today's meeting is the future status of the Commonwealth itself. ITAR-TASS reports that after the one-to-one conversation between Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk, the Russian-Ukrainian talks continued with a broader participation.

Summing up his conversation with Kravchuk, Boris Yeltsin said that today a number of problems exist in Russian-Ukrainian relations: in the power industry and in the military and social spheres. Yeltsin stressed particularly that the peoples of Russia and Ukraine cannot live without these accords.

Yeltsin on Oil; Kravchuk on Start II

OW1501161593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moscow and Kiev have found a compromise that will make it possible to slightly increase the supplies of Russian oil to Ukraine, agreed at Thursday's [14 January] talks between the Prime Ministers of the two countries, President Yeltsin said. He was speaking after his meeting with the Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. He said to increase oil supplies Russia would have to re-activate hundreds and even thousands of oil wells. President Yeltsin said that Belarus might join Russia and Ukraine on this project.

President Yeltsin said Moscow would be unable to fully meet Kiev's request for petroleum products, because Russia expects oil production to fall by 45 million tons.

Earlier Ukraine asked Moscow for a supply of 45 million tons of oil in 1993. On the eve of the Moscow talks it was revealed that Russia promised 15 million tons. In Friday's interview published by the daily IZVESTIYA Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev said Russia would be able to provide 11 million tons.

Asked about the problem of former USSR foreign debt payments President Yeltsin said he hoped that Moscow and Kiev, with the participation of representatives from the Paris club of creditor nations, would sign an agreement suiting both sides.

As far as strategic arms are concerned, Ukraine confirmed its intention to go nuclear-free on the condition it had Russia's guarantees of its security and territorial integrity.

President Yeltsin said that an agreement will be signed to dismantle strategic nuclear missiles, stationed in Ukrainian territory. President Kravchuk said that Ukraine supported the START-2 strategic offensive arms treaty and added that on the condition of the guarantees of security and territorial integrity the Ukrainian parliament would ratify START-1. [sentence as received]

About the results of the talks in general President Yeltsin said: "We have remained friends, although we could have gone apart. However, we had brains enough to make the correct decision".

Presidents Comment on Results

LD1501165593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1605 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 15 January—Russian President Boris Yeltsin told journalists that he was satisfied with the talks with Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk that took place in the Kremlin today. A package of documents concerning political, economic, and military questions was signed on the basis of their results.

"The most important thing is that two major countries of the world—Ukraine and Russia—have lived, are living today, and will live in peace and calm, without threatening each other, but helping each other," Boris Yeltsin said assessing the results of the meeting. He reported that during the talks it was decided to set up a coordinating Russian-Ukrainian Council in order "to keep a constant eye on how the accords that were reached by us today are being implemented."

Boris Yeltsin expressed the hope that "today's meeting and the documents that have been signed will serve to make 1993 a year of a certain stabilization—economically, first of all—both in Russia and in Ukraine. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Boris Yeltsin said that he and Leonid Kravchuk had agreed upon the appointment of Eduard Baltin as commander of the Black Sea Fleet.

Leonid Kravchuk, in turn, told journalists that "today's meeting passed constructively. The documents that were signed confirm our long-standing desire and aspiration to live in friendship, harmony, and partnership and to work jointly to resolve the problems that we have."

The president of Ukraine noted that the Russian-Ukrainian meeting in the Kremlin "reflected the realities of life and its results are based upon them. They open up good prospects for resolving large-scale tasks of vital significance for the peoples of our states."

Kravchuk, Yeltsin on CIS Charter

LD1501180393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1635 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Jan—"Ukraine and its president have not raised the question of leaving the CIS," stated Leonid Kravchuk, answering journalists' questions on the attitude of his country to the CIS Charter, after the end of the Russian-Ukrainian talks.

"We have criticized the CIS," he continued, "but that was businesslike criticism, because there are grounds for this. We believe the CIS charter should work and improve upon the structure based on the Minsk and Alma-Ata agreements. We are not simply rejecting the charter. We are saying that we cannot sign this draft charter, since it does not accord with our legislation and the Supreme Soviet resolution, which says precisely and clearly that Ukraine may not sign any documents that give this structure rights that are greater than those envisaged by our documents, or which create common structures."

Leonid Kravchuk appealed to the mass media "not to make Ukraine out to be the destroyer of the CIS."

"Ukraine," he stressed, "is striving to ensure that this structure works effectively, in the long-term, for the independence of states, their parity, good-neighborliness and friendly relations."

In his turn, Boris Yeltsin told journalists that "work must be done upon the draft of the CIS charter to ensure that a common document is adopted, without it being called a charter since this word has a certain military nuance."

Problems Facing Kuchma at Moscow Talks Eyed

PM1501170793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Jan 93 p 2

[F. Siziy report under "Event of the Day" rubric: "Two Premiers at Loggerheads"]

[Text] Kiev—Russian-Ukrainian talks are continuing in Moscow. Prime Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Leonid Kuchma spoke face to face for 90 minutes, while the government delegations discussed the problems of the external debt and assets of the former Soviet Union.

When L. Kravchuk was returning from Tel Aviv, Kuchma was hurrying to Moscow. This is extremely symbolic, if you consider that the latter's flight from Borispol almost coincided with the former's arrival there. But a difference of an hour or so did not allow them to congratulate each other on the Old Style New Year. And in recent times the prime minister has publicly made a show of complete mutual understanding with the president.

Kravchuk had not expected these Christmas presents.

Prior to that Kuchma had unexpectedly delivered a resignation statement: "The position is simply impossible. If Russia raises its prices for energy sources again, and rumors are circulating to that effect, I will resign, since I see no way out of deadlock."

After NOVOSTI had reported this sensation, the old apparatchiks of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers were actually at a loss. Some of them urgently tried to prepare an official rebuttal: Moscow, it ran, is whipping up the situation as usual. But the consistent premier once again repeated: If the talks with Russia break down, he will have no other choice than to fly straight from Moscow to Dnepropetrovsk.

Incidentally, Kuchma still does not have a Kiev residence permit, since he has been in no hurry to acquire an apartment in the capital. "I do not have the time," the Ukrainian premier recently confessed.

The beginning of the new year showed that sterner times lay ahead. At a consultative meeting with the president on the draft CIS charter the prime minister was sternly warned, according to old party traditions, not to gear economic strategy toward Russia.... Famously fond of a little joke, this time, it seems, Leonid Kuchma could find nothing to say.

But when, literally a few days later, at a meeting of the mayors of Ukraine's largest cities, he was hectored on all sides and called on to find the swiftest paths of economic rapprochement with Russia, he evidently regretted that the president was not nearby. "If we do not find points of contact with Russia," he was told by Kharkov, Donetsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Odessa, and other industrial centers, "a social explosion is inevitable." It was here that Kuchma first warned of his resignation.

But, strictly speaking, is it logical to link the possibility of resignation with an increase in petroleum product prices, especially an increase by another state?

If this happens, Kuchma believes, prices will inevitably shoot up again in Ukraine, which will provoke a social explosion, a mutiny which will sweep away everything in its path. Russia is still selling oil to Belarus at half the price at which it sells to Ukraine, and the reason is the ideology of Russian-Ukrainian relations. This is most likely why Kuchma, by his statement, for the first time gave Kravchuk to understand that he does not intend to play the role of an extra. The way out of the crisis, in

Kuchma's opinion, lies in the full restoration of economic ties between Ukraine and Russia based on positions of mutually advantageous interests. Kravchuk, it seems, does not agree.

Thus the conflict, hidden from many eyes, of two mutually exclusive approaches—those of the president and the prime minster—has been thoroughly exposed. Kuchma is convinced that if Moscow does not resolve at an interstate level right now the problem of the supply of petroleum products, the economy will perish. Ukraine's requirements amount to 45 million tonnes. Russia, judging by the preliminary negotiations, is ready to grant only 15 million tonnes. And it guarantees delivery of only 7 million. The Ukrainian Government is ready to actively involve itself in the solution of the problems of the West Siberian fuel and energy complex.

Kravchuk, for his part, in response to the question of one Kiev newspaper on the possibility of Russia's turning off the oil and gas "oxygen," diplomatically remarks: "Perhaps it would turn it off, if it had any to switch off. It is no longer the time when Yeltsin could order something to, say, Tyumen. The system has changed."

Kuchma is ready for many compromises which would enable the vicious circle of self-isolation to be broken.

Kravchuk claims that only the corresponding results in the nationwide referendum could change his course.

Knowing the political distribution of forces in the Ukrainian president's circle, Kuchma admitted that he is leaving for Moscow with a heavy heart.

Undoubtedly, the difficult talks in Moscow will show the level of relations not only between Ukraine and Russia but, strange as it many seem, but also between Kravchuk and Kuchma.

Forecasting the "nightmare scenario," whereby the Ukrainian prime minister leaves the political stage, it is already possible today to envisage his place being instantly occupied by someone more complaisant and obedient to certain political forces.

Moscow Mayor Complains to Kuchma

LD1501184193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Jan 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Late yesterday evening, Moscow's Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov had a meeting with Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma. Yuriy Luzhkov complained to the Ukrainian prime minister over the failure to fulfill deliveries to the Russian capital of foodstuffs, particularly sugar. Leonid Kuchma promised to rectify the situation and to make deliveries under all the clauses of the agreements signed with Russia mandatory and regular.

Chernomyrdin, Kuchma Cited

PM1901105793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Jan 93 p 1

[Aleksey Luzin report: "If Kiev Remained Without Oil, Moscow Would Not Receive Sugar"]

[Text] A meeting took place between Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk in Moscow yesterday. When this issue of our newspaper was being signed to press, the results of the talks were still unknown to us. One thing was known, however: This top-level meeting was preceded by thorough and fruitful talks between government delegations. The topics of those talks are no secret. Ukraine's leaders acknowledge that the country is on the verge of an energy crisis. Assessing the situation in the republic, Ukrainian Premier Leonid Kuchma admitted that he had come to Moscow in a bad frame of mind: "If Kiev remains without oil and gas, the Ukrainian economy's survival and this year's harvest will be in question." However, for Moscow this raises in turn the question of whether Russians will drink their tea with or without sugar. The sugar received from Ukraine right now is scarcely adequate to supply the capital's food industry.

The economic difficulties between the two countries are undoubtedly generating some political tension. However, the reasons for the unsatisfactory fulfilment of commitments are due not so much to political will—the political will exists—as to objective defects of the economic transformations.

According to Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, no one is malevolently bent on curtailing Ukraine's energy resources. The problem today is not down to Russia's political ambitions or even to the price of raw materials, but to the fact that, given the fall in oil extraction, it is becoming difficult to meet even our own needs. Last year Russia extracted 64 million tonnes of oil less than in 1991. Fifty percent of the 66.2 milion tonnes of exported oil was accounted for, as usual, by Ukraine.

Despite the seeming impasse, the two heads of government exhibited patience and wisdom in resolving the problem. An accord was reached whereby the premiers will meet in Tyumen at the start of February to examine the question of Ukraine's participation in the development and exploitation of a Russian oilfield.

According to Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, today's talks open a new stage in bilateral cooperation on all basic questions. A whole package of agreements was signed on scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear energy sphere, on arrangements governing the transit of Russian goods across Ukraine, and on labor and social provision for citizens of Russia and Ukraine working outside their own countries.

Reciprocal settlements between enterprises remain an outstanding problem between the two countries. Ukraine has not yet settled its accounts with Russia for a considerable amount of goods which have been paid for [by

consignees]. At the meeting the two premiers reached an accord on clearing all last year's mutual settlements between enterprises by 1 February.

Leonid Kuchma described the results of the talks as follows: "I am grateful to Viktor Stepanovich for the mutual understanding found in Moscow. Russia and Ukraine cannot do without each other. The interests of our countries and peoples coincide in many respects. We live within a single economic area and should proceed on that basis."

Navy Commander Meets Press on Implementing START II

LD1801184093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1715 GMT 18 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—The Russian Navy Command considers the START-2 strategic arms reduction agreement as the continuation of the START-1 Treaty, Russian Navy Commander Feliks Gromov said on Monday [18 January].

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Monday, Gromov said the implementation of the START-2 will not require additional expenditures since all of them have already been covered by the START-1 Treaty.

He said the START-1 agreement did not specify the number of nuclear warheads to remain on nuclear submarines. Under START-2, their number has to be reduced to 2,160 in Russia and the U.S. respectively by 1999 and to 1,700-1,750 by 2003.

He said the U.S. will have to reduce the number of nuclear warheads by 3.3 fold, while for Russia this figure is about 1.3- 1.7.

Gromov Wants More Active Dialogue on Black Sea Fleet

LD1801171993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1659 GMT 18 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—"Talks about the fate of the Black Sea fleet will continue more actively and I think we will find a mutually acceptable decision which would satisfy both Russia and Ukraine," Russian Navy Commander Felix Gromov said on Monday [18 January].

"The consideration of the fact that the fleet infrastructure, its bases and everything connected with its main base in Sevastopol is dear to Russia may facilitate the negotiation process," Gromov said.

"The undermining of these factors by the Ukrainian side is a stumbling block for settling the dispute over the Black Sea fleet," the commander said.

"We are doing everything possible to keep the fleet in combat readiness," Gromov said, adding that the main problem is in the absence of the fleet's legal status for the transitional period which will last until 1995 and inefficient social welfare and economic guarantees for fleet officers.

Croatia Asked To Observe Bosnian No-Fly Zone

OW1801165193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Under the preliminary agreement of January 14 the permanent representatives of the United States, Britain, France, Spain and Russia at the United Nations have taken action against Croatia's acting representative, because his country violated the ban on military flights over Bosnia-Hercegovina 19 times between December 23 and January 7. A total of 28 such violations were registered in Bosnia.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said on Monday [18 January] the Croatian official was told that resolution 781 of the UN Security Council banned the military planes of all parties to the conflict in Bosnia from its air space. The Croatian authorities should have no doubts that any measures to enforce the ban will, in case of approval by the UN Security Council applied to all parties.

Kozyrev Details Stance on Conflict in Yugoslavia

PM1901111593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jan 93 p 2

[Interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by Maxim Yusin; place and date not given: "Moscow Still Hopes for Peaceful Settlement in Bosnia, But Does Not Rule Out Use of Force. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev Answers IZVESTIYA's Questions"]

[Text] [Yusin] Minister, this week there could be a decision on whether there will be foreign military intervention in the Bosnian conflict. The text of a UN Security Council resolution is being agreed upon on this question. What position will Russia adopt in the voting?

[Kozyrev] I still think that chances for a peaceful settlement remain. On Tuesday [19 January] the Bosnian Serbs' parliament is due to express its attitude to the Vance-Owen plan. If realism prevails and the Serbs give a positive answer, a decision on the use of force will hardly be appropriate.

If the peace plan is rejected, I do not rule out that the question of international intervention will arise. Many states are calling for decisive steps. They believe that Belgrade's recent steps in the right direction are no more than a diplomatic maneuver, an attempt to gain time.

The fact that reports of violations of the UN-imposed "no-fly" zone are still coming in is also an incentive to decisive action.

Before adopting a decision on the use of force, we should thoroughly weigh up the political expediency of such a step. One thing we really can talk about as of today is safeguarding the "no-fly" zone over Bosnian territory. I would like to note that the ban on flights by military aircraft is by no means an anti-Serbian measure; it is aimed against all the warring parties. Incidentally, the Croatians have been committing violations more than anyone else in recent times.

[Yusin] U.S. Secretary of State Eagleburger stated that if the Belgrade authorities resort to repression against the Albanian population of Kosovo, Americans reserve the right to intervene. How do you assess these words, and what is Russia's position regarding the growing conflict in Kosovo?

[Kozyrev] During my recent meeting with Eagleburger in Geneva, we discussed the Kosovo problem in detail. It was already clear to me then that the Americans did not intend to undertake direct, forceful actions. As for Russia's position, we call for the rights of the Albanian population of Kosovo to be observed, including the right to have autonomy. At the same time, we do not support separatist tendencies in this province, and we favor the territorial integrity of Serbia. As far as I know, these are the positions also taken by the United States and the EC countries.

[Yusin] Are the resolutions adopted by the Supreme Soviet on the situation in Yugoslavia binding on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

[Kozyrev] This is a question better addressed to lawyers. Regarding the most recent resolution, I would like to draw attention to the fact that it is addressed to the government, proposing that it give our ministry certain instructions.

In its activity the Ministry of Foreign Affairs strives to take the Supreme Soviet's position into consideration; we maintain constant contact with the leaders of the parliamentary Committee for International Affairs. Going by content, and not form, we share many of the fears expressed by deputies. On the other hand, the resolution looks like direct interference in the affairs of the executive power. Even President Yeltsin never gives us such detailed instructions.

[Yusin] Do you often discuss the situation in Yugoslavia with the president?

[Kozyrev] I can say that Boris Nikolayevich has a fine command of the Yugoslav dossier, and follows the situation attentively. Not one important decision on this question is made without his sanction.

[Yusin] Are you not afraid that the armed conflict could spill over into yet another former Yugoslav republic—Macedonia? And if so, how can this be prevented?

[Kozyrev] Such a threat does indeed exist, especially if the situation in Kosovo is exacerbated. In this event it cannot be ruled out that unrest will spill over into the neighboring republic, where many Albanians live. Swift international recognition and guarantees of integrity and sovereignty from the world community could help to prevent this.

Churkin Comments on Bosnia

LD1901153793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1501 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Ryabikin and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—"We are looking forward to a decision the parliament in Belgrade makes today on proposals to settle the situation in former Yugoslavia.

"We have inspiring signals, which, we hope, will come true," Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin told a briefing here today.

He said it is necessary to create conditions for the activities of all parties to the conflict and the international community "not to break the current fragile balance at negotiations and numerous contacts on the Bosnian issue".

A special threat to the balance is posed by attempts to start combat operations in Bosnia, he said. "We have conveyed the concern through diplomatic channels to many participants in international efforts, the European Communities and some other countries".

It would be incorrect to interpret our stand on the Bosnia and Hercegovina conflict as "pro-Serbian" and "anti-Muslim", stressed Churkin. Our course proceeds from the need for an objective approach. That is why, we attentively follow the development of the situation and frankly speak if there is something that does not contribute to the settlement to all three parties to the conflict.

In particular, the Russian Foreign Ministry was alarmed with reports on attacks of the Croatian side at Muslims in Bosnia. "We believe this behavior must be a subject of the most serious attention of both the coordination committee and all international forums involved in the settlement of crisis in Bosnia and Hercegovina. It is evident such actions, including those on the Croatian part, should not be allowed by the international community".

Asked about U.N. sanctions as regards former Yugoslavia, Churkin said one should now think of the steps the international community should take in case the constructive course shown by the leadership of Yugoslavia and Serbia at Geneva negotiations is further developed.

However, if today the Bosnian Parliament does not make a positive decision it would be "a suicidal step on part Bosnian Serbs, a step leading to nowhere".

Asked whether Russia is ready to send additional peacemaking forces to former Yugoslavia, the deputy minister said "I do not exclude such a possibility if the Security Council asks Russia about that".

Defense Minister Grachev Leaves for France

OW1701142293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Defense Minister, Pavel Grachev, left for France on Sunday [17 January] on his first official visit there. As IF [INTERFAX] learned from the Defense Ministry in Moscow, P. Grachev is to confer with the leaders of France's military establishment and visit the General Staff, the naval base in Toulon, and a paratroops division.

Besides, Russia's Defense minister is to address the cadets of a military school with lectures concerning reforms in the Russian army, and sign an agreement on contacts between the two countries' defense ministries.

The Russian defense minister's visit will be curtailed in view of his participation in the conference to be held in Minsk on January 21 by the Ukrainian, Belarusian and Kazakh defense ministers. P. Grachev will return to Moscow on January 20, not 22, as he planned earlier.

Discusses Yugoslavia, Ties

LD1801205893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2037 GMT 18 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Kuleshov]

[Text] Paris January 18 TASS—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and French Defence Minister Pierre Joxe have signed an agreement on mutual contacts between the two Defence Ministries in 1993. Grachev is in Paris on an official visit.

The agreement provides for exchange of officials visits by the leaders and commanders, visits by Russian and French ships and "stage" of cadets in Russian and French military schools, as well as cooperation in conversion to peaceful uses.

If Russia and France send troops contingents and military ships to conflict zones to maintain peace within the framework of the United Nations and the Conference for Cooperation and Security in Europe, the commanders of these formations will hold working meetings to exchange views and coordinate actions, the agreements said.

Talks between the Russian and French defence ministers, at which Admiral Jacques Lanxade was present, centered round the implementation of the agreement and the actions of the two countries' military contingents in former Yugoslavia.

The Russian minister then delivered a lecture in the Ecole Militaire. His audience included military school cadets and members of the military commandment. Grachev set forth the main provisions of the doctrine and the conceptual approaches to the building of the Russian Armed Forces.

The Russian minister spoke about the importance for mankind of the START-2 Treaty signed between Russia and the Untied States, as this treaty which transcends all other disarmament agreements signed before and provides the backbone to the guarantee of global security, he said. Russia and the United States restrain their nuclear growth and this entitles them to expect that other nuclear powers, France, Britain and China, would join the negotiating process in the foreseeable future.

"Our relations with France have for decades been quite warm," Pavel Grachev said. Their development aims to expand links in various fields, including military. But along with this, we had, have and will likely have differences in evaluating the development of the international situation and in defining ways for the settlement of conflicts in different parts of the world. But it is not the time to stress our differences. We are now looking for constructive dialogue with France, ways towards mutual understanding and confidence building", the minister stressed.

On Tuesday the Russian minister will set off on a tour of the country, including visits to the Normandie-Niemen squad in Rheims and the 11th Paratrooper Division in Toulouse. The Russian defence minister will also visit the aircraft [carrier] Clemenceau. 18 JAN 2106z MM

Grachev Embarks on Tour

LD1901150693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1047 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Kuleshov]

[Text] Paris January 19 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, who is paying an official visit to France, laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier near the Arc de Triomphe de l'Etoile on Paris's Charles de Gualle Square.

Grachev accompanied by French Defence Minister Pierre Joxe inspected the guard of honour from troops of the Republican Guard, welcomed a group of war veterans and participants in the resistance movement.

Grachev left for a tour of the country today. The first leg of his itinerary is an airforce base in Reims where Grachev will visit the legendary Normandie-Neman Squadron.

Kozyrev Not To Go to Minsk 20 Jan; To Attend Later

OW1801164993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Foreign Ministry officials have said that contrary to the original plan, which was still in effect in the morning of January 18, Andrey Kozyrev will not go to Minsk on January 20. CIS Foreign Ministers will be meeting there to discuss preparations for a conference of the CIS heads of state. Russia will be represented by first Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin.

Kozyrev will probably arrive in the capital of Belarus later, toward the beginning of the summit.

Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko is arriving in Moscow early Tuesday [19 January] morning on a one-day working visit. His talks with Andrey Kozyrev will begin at about 11:30 on January 19 at the Foreign Ministry's mansion in Aleksey Tolstoy street.

Kozyrev 'Changed His Mind'

OW1901155393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1449 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Minister ultimately decided to go to Minsk on Wednesday to take part in preparations for the CIS summit, scheduled for January 22.

During the past 24 hours, the minister has twice changed his mind. Until several hours ago, he intended to send his first deputy, Anatoliy Adamishin, to the Belarusian capital, apparently because the foreign ministers of several other Commonwealth states are also going to send their deputies.

Kozyrev is likely to stay in Minsk until President Boris Yeltsin arrives.

Today, on Tuesday [19 January], Kozyrev is holding negotiations with the Belarusian Foreign Minister, Petr Kravchenko.

Kravchenko told INTERFAX in Minsk before leaving for Moscow that he expected "no sharp clashes at the meeting of the CIS Foreign Ministers' Council in Minsk." The meeting's main purpose, he said, is to discuss the draft summit agenda.

The foreign ministers will pay special attention to the draft CIS Charter, Kravchenko thinks. He is sure the document will be considered at the summit itself.

Yeltsin on Japan Visit, Conversion, Economy

OW1801175093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1728 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin is prepared to visit Japan on certain conditions, he told journalists in his tour of Moscow subway on Monday [18 January]. "If the Japanese do not make stiff demands concerning the [Kuril] islands, it will make sense to go to Japan", he said.

He, Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, and Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov examined new subway cars which are more spacious and fire-resistant.

Boris Yeltsin described the cars as "the first tangible evidence of conversion to peaceful uses", for they had been developed in a designed board that had made the world's best anti-aircraft missiles. As military contracts became scarce, the designers took part in and won a tender for subway cars.

In response to IF [INTERFAX]'s Vyacheslav Terekhov's question on the political and economic situation Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin said that "the economic situation in the country is normal" for work, for finding new roads to stabilization.

On the same subject Boris Yeltsin noted that "the talk on chaos in the country and crisis scares are groundless. True, there are numerous difficulties yet, numerous unresolved problems and complications in financing. [sentence as received] If, however, we attend to business, tenaciously and quietly, we will solve our problems sooner than if we engage in politicking".

Chinese Speedboat Said To Attack Russian Tanker

LD1501133693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] An alarming report has come in from the East China Sea, from the captain of the tanker Ussuriysk, (Valentin Serikov). His vessel came under attack by rocket launcher and automatic weapons from a speedboat flying the Chinese flag. Fortunately, the grenade missed the tanker and exploded in the water 50 meters from the vessel, while the burst of automatic fire failed to cause any special damage either. In his radiogram, the captain of the Ussuriysk reports that the tanker managed to evade the attackers by maneuvering and increasing speed. When the tanker arrived in the port of its destination, Xiamin, the incident was reported to the Russian Consulate General in Shanghai. In turn, the consulate made appropriate representations to the Chinese side. So far the cause of the attack on the Russian vessel remains a mystery.

[In a similar report on the incident, Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 0716 GMT on 15 January noted that "two days earlier another Russian ship was attacked by

pirates in the Yellow Sea. Three armed people got aboard the 'Priozerny' refrigerator from Magadan, searched the ship, found nothing of interest and disappeared on a speed boat."]

Negotiations With Estonia End; No Agreements Signed

OW1501175893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the closing, on Friday [15 January], of the eighth round of the inter-state negotiations between Russia and Estonia, in the Moscow region of Nakhabino, none of the agreements was signed. The state delegations discussed four basic problems: economic, military, humanitarian and borders.

Nevertheless the head of the Russian delegation, Vasiliy Svirin, was not inclined to "dramatize the situation". Speaking at a press conference at the end of the negotiations, he expressed the hope for an "advance forward" to the ninth round of bilateral negotiations which is planned for the last week of February in Lokhusal near Tallinn.

Svirin said the most "painful" problem is that of the Russian-speaking population in Estonia. He said the sides must quickly prepare a draft agreement on a settlement of the problem of citizenship. However, according to Svirin, "Estonia is not considering the proposal by Russia and therefore at the moment the sides are not in a condition to work out even the conception of the document."

On the military question, the sides still maintain their former positions: Estonia is demanding the withdrawal of Russian troops before the middle of 1993 and Russia is ready to withdraw them before the end of 1994.

Talking on the border aspect of the negotiations, the head of the Russian delegation emphasized that the position of Russia consists of maintaining the existing borders. He characterized the Estonian position on this issue as "the advancement of territorial claims which we reject". He also regretted the introduction, by the Estonian delegation, of a new draft agreement on the sustenance of contiguous territories. It is Svinis' opinion that the new document "limits contacts between the population and reduces the possibility of sustaining the districts".

Meanwhile the head of the Estonian delegation Yuriy Luik noted that Estonia is recreating a state in the borders that existed before 1939. Luik announced that "the seizure by Stalin of 6 rural districts has no legal basis". (These territories are now part of the Pskov and Leningrad regions of Russia - IF [INTERFAX]).

The head of the Estonian delegation regrets that up till now "the treaty on free trade has not come into effect". In his opinion this is hindering entrepreneurs from both countries from doing business.

Referendum Issues

Yeltsin To Meet With Parties Before Referendum

OW1501191993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In anticipation of the national referendum on the fundamentals of Russia's new constitution, which is slated for April this year, Boris Yeltsin intends to hold consultations with all then political parties and movements of the country. Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian President's press secretary, said this at a press conference this Friday [15 January] morning, commenting on the first in the series of such meetings with the leaders of the reform alliance "Democratic Choice". Mr Kostikov accentuated the fact that Boris Yeltsin is going to hold his dialogue with the socio-political forces "as a President of all the Russian people".

IF [INTERFAX] Note: This statement, in the opinion of the observers, comes as an acknowledgment of a change in the president's stance in regards to establishing a "Presidential Party", which he announced on the eve of the 7th Congress of People's Deputies in December. On November 29, two days before the opening of the Congress, President Yeltsin called for establishing a truly reformist party, averring that the president "ought to be both with it and in it". Some of the analysts maintain, however, that the President's statement at that time, which was apparently prompted by Gennadiy Burbulis, former state secretary and head of the presidential advisory group, became one of the reasons for the unfavorable change of the balance of forces for the president during the Congress.

At his meeting with the members of the "Democratic Choice" alliance, Boris Yeltsin told them that he and Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov of the RF [Russian Federation] Supreme Council have not reached an accord in regards to convening a new congress on the eve of the referendum. The representatives of the alliance, however, voiced an apprehension that such an agreement with the Supreme Council can be breached at the last moment. (The Resolution on the stabilization of the constitutional system in Russia, which was adopted by the 7th Congress of People's Deputies, does not envisage a possibility of the next congress on the eve of the national referendum in April. According to the Resolution, the Supreme Council is given the authority to approve the draft text for the referendum. It also stipulates that the draft text ought to be coordinated with the President and the Constitutional Court. "If the parties fail to agree on the wording of some of the provisions of the draft, they will be finalized by the alternative voting" - IF).

Boris Yeltsin told the participants about the inception of a joint commission of the Russian government and the Supreme Council, headed by Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko, to prepare the referendum. The President expressed surprise, however, that the level of representation of the Supreme Council in this commission is not on a par with that of the president (included in this commission on the part of the Supreme Council, proposedly, would be a number of chairmen of parliamentary commissions). In the opinion expressed by Sergey Yushchenkov and some other "Democratic Choice" leaders, all this is indicative of the disinterestedness of the Supreme Council leaders in conducting the referendum.

The President called for attracting all the intellectual potential of the Russian society for resolving the constitutional problem. If we fail to explain to our people the exigency of adopting a new democratic constitution, we will further complicate the political life in this country.

Writer Valentin Oskotskiy proposed, in that regard, to stage a broad meeting of representatives of intelligentsia, including journalists, working in various spheres of mass media. The President approved of this proposal, so long as it would help promote the provisions of the Russian constitutional reform among the country's population.

The head of state believes that the referendum should only deal with the articles of the Constitution which have to do with private ownership of land, interdependence of various branches of the power structure, etc. In the meantime, he remarked that these provisions should be concise and clearly- worded in order that they would be easily understood by all the Russian population.

IF Note: Oleg Rumyantsev, executive secretary of the Constitutional Commission headed by President Yeltsin, recently voiced objection to including the thesis on private ownership of land into the text of the basic provisions. Therefore, the experts believe, there is little chance that the wording of this provision would be agreed on by all the members of the above joint commission. In accordance with the Resolution of the 7th Congress, the draft provisions of the new constitution are to be published not later than March 31.

The representatives of the "Democratic Choice" alliance drew the president's attention to the dangerous steps taken by the opponents of the referendum in order to frustrate it. In particular, some of the country's regions are, reportedly, preparing a propaganda campaign to dissuade the population from taking part in the referendum and even making plans for blocking the polling stations on the day of referendum.

IF Note: The "Democratic Choice" alliance incorporates nearly 30 political parties and movements, with its strength, according to the "Democratic Choice" organizers, being about 1.5 Mn [million] active members. Taking part in the meeting with president Yeltsin were 12 people, including people's deputies Lev Ponomariyev, Sergey Yushchenkov, Gleb Yakunin, and Peter Filippov.

'Democratic Choice' on Meeting

PM1501155793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Jan 93 p 2

[R. Zaripov report: "Eight Points Which Frightened Parliament?"]

[Text] In the Kremlin yesterday a meeting took place between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and representatives of the "Democratic Choice" bloc of supporters of the reforms. Set up in the summer of 1992, the bloc currently unites around 30 party and public organizations and a number of parliamentary factions. One task was singled out from the wide variety proclaimed by this association—that of preparing and holding the referendum on the main provisions of the Constitution.

Participants in the meeting informed journalists that the Russian president had stressed several times that the referendum will decide the fate of the reforms, the fate of Russia, and that therefore "we must not lose it." An accord has been reached with the leadership of the Supreme Soviet on setting up a joint referendum staff. The executive and legislative organs of power have differing attitudes toward the working organ that has been set up. Whereas on the president's side the staff will be headed by First Deputy Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko [title as published], parliament limits itself to the chairman of one of the numerous committees. Vladimir Kostikov, the president's press secretary, expressed unambiguously the opinion of the meeting's participants: "The Supreme Soviet and its leaders want to belittle the referendum, to reduce it to the level of a routine consultation."

The eight basic constitutional principles which will constitute the substance of the referendum were defined at the meeting. The Russian population is invited to give its opinion on the issues of private ownership of land (Yeltsin singles this out as the priority question); the inviolability of property; strict adherence to the principle of the separation of powers; forming the legislative organ of power on the basis of a bicameral parliament, and not the Congress (the upper chamber to be formed from representatives of the subjects of the Federation, the lower through free elections); forming the executive organ of power, which, in the organizers' opinion, should be entirely determined by the president (except for the heads of administration of the subjects of the Federation); and the election of the supreme judicial organs through the joint decision of the legislative and executive organs of power. It is proposed to carry out the adoption of the new Constitution at a Constitutional Assembly, elections to which could be held in the early summer.

Further on Meeting

PM1801170593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Jan 93 p 1

[Petr Akopov report: "Referendum Will Decide the Country's Fate: Meeting Between Russian Federation President and Democratic Choice Bloc"]

[Text] The referendum is synonymous with "the fate of Russia," and it must not therefore be lost. That was the stance maintained by President Boris Yeltsin at his meeting with a delegation of the pro-reform Democratic Choice bloc. The bloc leaders came to see the president to submit their own proposals regarding the 11 April referendum on questions concerning the state structure. They include eight basic principles of the Constitution aimed at a "qualitative change in the constitutional system in Russia."

These principles should, according to Democratic Choice, be included on the list of questions during the referendum. The basic provisions of the future Constitution include: private ownership of land; the inviolability of property; strict observance of the principle of the separation of powers; the creation of a professional, bicameral parliament; the formation of executive power by the president; and the joint formation of the supreme judicial bodies by the legislative and executive branches of power.

And, of course, the people's right to referendums.

A right is one thing, but at present Democratic Choice is concerned by the more prosaic question of how to ensure that the population simply turns up at the polling places. The threats of disruption of the referendum remain very real. According to Democratic Choice, the basic danger stems from the leadership of the Supreme Soviet, which "fears the referendum." But meanwhile the Supreme Soviet is getting ready for the referendum: President Yeltsin has reported the creation of a joint staff drawn from representatives of the executive and legislative branches of power, but has complained about the low level of representation from parliament in this referendum staff.

The president and his guests were unanimous in regarding the actions of the Supreme Soviet leadership as aimed at belittling the significance of the referendum. Democratic Choice indicated other opponents of the referendum to the president, namely, former communist structures and other conservative forces.

But it is thought that the main danger to the referendum is nevertheless posed by the people themselves: People could simply fail to show up at the polling places. Political apathy is growing in society, and the main problem for the supporters of the referendum will therefore be to ensure the referendum is "quorate." To those ends Democratic Choice promised the president it would enlist the services of the recently created Assembly of the Intelligentsia. Democratic scientists, writers, and journalists—"the entire Russian intelligenstia"—will be mobilized. Little time remains, but is is too late to retreat now.

Officials, Organizations React to Referendum

Presidential Adviser Speaks Out

MK1801145593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jan 93 p 2

[Indira Dunayeva report: "Starovoytova on Referendum"]

[Text] Galina Starovoytova spoke skeptically at a session of the "Democratic Russia" Coordinating Council of the main provisions that the "Democratic Choice" coalition is proposing for discussion in the April referendum. She proposed rejecting all the items apart from the questions pertaining to the multiparty system, the independence of the courts and the press, and the question of land. "A referendum is a massive sociological poll and it is being methodically prepared in the wrong way. 'Democratic Choice' experts have for some reason decided that in terms of the number of issues the list of questions should be reminiscent of the Ten Commandments," Mrs. Starovoytova said.

She told members of the Coordinating Council that Khasbulatov is planning to hold a congress and the referendum at the same time, and hypothesized that the situation in the country would be specially destabilized. She also said that "it is necessary to decide what we will do if questions that we do not like are adopted for discussion: Whether we will boycott the referendum or print an alternative set of questions on gray paper and take that around the countryside."

Civic Union Leaders Hold News Conference

LD1601204993 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] After a meeting of the Civic Union's political council its leaders had a meeting with journalists today. Concern was expressed about the political confrontation, the continuing separation of political forces in Russia either side of a barrier. There was condemnation of the violation of the compromise agreement between the executive and legislative branches of power worked out by the seventh Russian Congress of People's Deputies. On the question of the referendum: [Video shows press briefing under way, focusing on Nikolay Travkin, leader of Democratic Party of Russia.]

[Travkin] The president's actual terminology was: We don't have the right to lose. So we go back and say: Why, then, did we set out to hold a referendum? In order to ask the people, the population: How do you envision the state structure? How can you lose here? The majority of the population says: This is how we see the state structure. The terminology win or lose was absent there.

[Unidentified correspondent] In this regard Vasiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the People's Party of Free Russia, expressed surprise at the fact that one of the deputy premiers had been appointed head of the staff for conducting the referendum, who he believes is being given the task of ensuring the victory of only one of the political forces. The Civic Union and the structures which belong to it advocate holding a roundtable of representatives of various political movements and the authorities to reach consensus in society.

Poltoranin on Referendum

LD1901021493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent S. Vozianov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The fate of the Federal Information Center is not dependent on any decisions of the Russian Supreme Soviet. The center belongs to the structures whose existence does not require the approval of the Russian parliament and they may be set up by the president independently. This was stated today by Mikhail Poltoranin, the leader of the center, at breakfast at the "Slavyanskaya" hotel. The international press center has made it a custom to hold its news conferences in such a fashion.

The main topic of the meeting between Mikhail Poltoranin and the media is the forthcoming referendum on the principles of the state structure of Russia. Giving the reasons for the need to hold the referendum, Mikhail Poltoranin said that the state used to be held together by the CPSU dictatorship, and soviets surrounded it as ornaments. The CPSU has been abolished and, because of their nature, soviets cannot ensure the unity of the state.

According to Poltoranin, the issue of private ownership of land should be submitted for the referendum. An owner always has a good deal of strength and energy, and it is difficult to talk with him in the tone of past decades, Poltoranin stated.

[Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2000 GMT adds the following: "Poltoranin also reported that a meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Ruslan Khasbulatov has taken place and that a joint commission has been set up to formulate issues which are being submitted for the referendum. According to Poltoranin, an issue of private ownership on land should be also resolved at the referendum."]

Committee Chairman Comments

LD1901130893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0700 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS observer Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Jan— With its resolution on measures to hold an all-Russian referendum, the Supreme Soviet has confirmed that it will be held on 11 April this year, as was also planned by the Seventh Congress of

People's Deputies of Russia. Therefore the discussion that has arisen in society, some parties, and even among deputies themselves about postponing the date of the vote or the inadvisability of holding it at all is pointless and should be stopped, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today by Mikhail Mityukov, chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Legislation.

According to him, serious work must now be done on preparing the questions to be entered on the ballot. These are to be the basic provisions of the new constitution of Russia, explained the committee chairman, who has been named as one of the participants in preparing the text of the referendum.

The starting point was the Congress resolution on the stabilization of the constitutional system, in which attention is drawn to questions concerning social structure, the organization of state power, and the fundamental rights and liberties of citizens. It is essential to develop and specify the most important of these points and to resolve many constitutional questions, Mikhail Mityukov said.

In his opinion, the people must be acquainted with the questions of the referendum in good time and not have to study the "constitutional treatise" hastily in the voting booth. With this aim in view the draft basic provisions will be published in the press. It is not ruled out that this should be preceded by a "roundtable" of political and public movements. Work on the draft should also be carried out in the Supreme Soviets of the republics.

After that there will be the serious process of "internal and external agreements" - in the Supreme Soviet, with the president and with the Constitutional Court of Russia. And only then will the resolution of the Supreme Soviet be adopted. The main task on which success in this matter depends is to achieve a consensus of the authorities, Mikhail Mityukov emphasized.

Poll Shows Voters' Attitude

LD1701210393 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 17 Jan 93

[From the "Itogi" program]

[Text] The results of an opinion poll conducted for Itogi by the Obshchestvennoye Mneniye foundation among almost 1,200 people in various regions of Russia show that voters' attitude toward the upcoming referendum is quite ambivalent. To begin with, one-fourth of the respondents did not know what this referendum is about. [Video shows chart on screen showing figure of 26 percent.] The opinion of the others was divided: 29 percent believe that the referendum is necessary, 24 percent that it is not necessary, while 21 percent could not give an answer.

Political and Military Issues

Yeltsin Edict on Controls on Public Organizations

PM1501173793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jan 93 First Edition p 6

[Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 45 signed by President B. Yeltsin and dated 13 January 1993: "On Measures To Step Up Controls over the Creation and Activities of Public Associations"]

[Text] With a view to strengthening constitutional legality and law and order in the country, and to increasing control over the creation and activity of public associations, I decree that:

1. The Russian Federation Government and organs of executive power in republics within the Russian Federation, krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg:

shall ensure unswerving observance of constitutional legality when registering the by-laws of public associations, and the strengthening of controls over their activities;

shall strictly fulfill the requirements of the Russian Federation Constitution on the impermissibility of the creation of or activities by parties, organizations, and movements aimed at bringing about a forcible change in the constitutional system and the state's integrity, undermining its security, and whipping up social, ethnic, or religious discord;

shall expose organizational structures which have arrogated to themselves the powers of constitutional organs of power, and shall submit proposals for the disbandment of these structures to the relevant organs;

shall, in accordance with the law, ensure that proceedings are instituted against public paramilitary associations and armed formations, as well as against those public associations (including those which have not registered their by-laws) whose actions go beyond the bounds of the aims and tasks contained in their by-laws, or in other respects breach legislation on public associations, or are aimed at impeding the legitimate activities of organs of state power and bringing about their disbandment, at replacing structures of state power or forming parallel structures, or at discrediting organs of state power through the dissemination of deliberately false information.

2. The Russian Federation general prosecutor shall be instructed to step up supervision of the fulfillment of Russian Federation laws by public associations (including associations which have not registered their by-laws).

3. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet shall be instructed to accelerate the elaboration, adoption, and introduction of laws on political parties and public associations.

4. In connection with the fact that the organizational committee of the so-called National Salvation Front has ceased its activity, the paragraph relating to the abolition of the organizational committee in Russian Federation presidential edict No. 1308 of 28 October 1992 "On Measures to Protect the Russian Federation's Constitutional System" shall be considered null and void.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
Moscow, the Kremlin
13 January 1993
No. 45

Yeltsin Talks With Government, Parliament Leaders

PM1501165593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jan 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" rubric: "Summit Meeting"]

[Text] On 13 January the president of the Russian Federation had a meeting with the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, the chairman of the government, and their deputies.

A wide range of political, economic, social, and organizational questions was discussed. There was a discussion on fulfilling the decisions of the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies, coordinating actions to prepare for and hold the referendum, and drawing up agreed wordings for the referendum. The question was raised of the possibility of creating a "roundtable" to harmonize various political trends and approaches and to draw up agreed recommendations for the program of anticrisis measures within the framework of the economic reform.

In the foreign policy sphere the question of ratifying the START II Treaty was examined.

Filatov Appointed Chief of Russian President's Staff

LD1901111893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1109 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—Sergey Filatov, former deputy chairman of the Russian Parliament, was appointed by the president's decree today as chief of the Russian president's staff.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS several days ago, Filatov evaluated the new appointment as Boris Yeltsin's bid to reinforce the president's inner circle with democratic figures.

In Filatov's view, Russia needs a democratic and balanced power structure which rules out the monopoly of any of its branches.

Filatov is 56 years old. He graduated from the Moscow Power- Engineering Institute and is Master of Science (Technology). He began his work in 1955 as an assistant to a foreman-electrician at Moscow's Serp I Molot plant. He later headed a scientific laboratory and from 1986 to 1990 was a department head at the All- Union Scientific-Research and Design Institute of Metallurgical Machine-Building named after Tselikov.

In November 1991, Filatov became first deputy of the Russian Parliament's speaker.

Chief of Deputy Premier's Secretariat Appointed

PM1901093993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Jan 93 p 1

[Untitled "Own Information" report under "Appointments" rubric]

[Text] By directive of the Russian Federation president, Nikolay Golovin has been appointed chief of the secretariat of the [unspecified] deputy chairman of the Russian Federation government Council of Ministers.

Parliament Requests START II Documents From Ministries

OW1801165293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The committees of the Russian parliament on defence and security and on international affairs and external economic ties have officially asked the Foreign Ministry and the Defence Ministry to present to parliament the package of agreements concerning START-2.

Defence and Security Committee spokesman Sergey Stepashin has told IF [INTERFAX] that the heads of those committees and the speaker of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov agreed on Monday [18 January] that parliamentary hearings on preparations for the ratification of START-2 will be held after the President submits that document to parliament officially.

Stepashin believes that the first round of hearings will begin on February 2 or 3. In the second half of February the question is going to be included in the agenda of an enlarged session of the Russian parliament's Presidium.

The official also said that the Russian Unity parliamentary bloc opposed to the president would be holding alternative hearings on START-2 next week.

St. Andrews Flag Raised on New 'Supersubmarine'

LD1501220893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2030 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By unspecified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Archangel, 15 Jan—The St. Andrew's flag was raised today on a new nuclear submarine of the Russian Navy. The Archangel youth newspaper 'SEVERNYY

KOMSOMOLETS' [Northern Komsomolets] reports that the multipurpose supersubmarine Leopard will be part of the Northern Fleet.

Economic Issues

Government Amends Price Control Ordinance

OW1801191493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1844 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a Government Ordinance on new steps to regulate inflationary processes and amendment of Ordinance 1041 of December 31, 1992, on price controls.

INTERFAX found from unofficial sources that prior to issuing the new Ordinance of January 18 the Premier negotiated with First Vice- Premier Vladimir Shumeyko and and Deputy Premier Vladimir Fedorov who insisted on reconsidering the earlier Ordinance for which the media and experts had criticized the Cabinet accusing it of departure from the course of reform.

The new Ordinance bans introduction of price controls and fixed prices by non-monopolist producers. The list of monopolist producers whose prices are controlled by the state is reduced.

The anti-inflationary financial and crediting controls are significantly tightened. The Ministry of Finance has 30 days to work out a program of financing the budget deficit by issuing state bonds. The Ministry must also propose ways to increase the excise and import duties for numerous goods.

The Central Bank is told to announce the discount rate every month and curtail the crediting with a view to counter the price increases. The Saving Bank is advised to increase the interest rate.

The Government intends to impose tighter criteria for granting preferential treatment to factories and to have loss making firms reorganized. The State Property Management Committee will formulate the regulations on a Federal agency which will attend to insolvent and bankrupt factories.

Federov Cited on Decree

PM1901133593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Mikhail Berger: "Russian Government Reviews Prices Regulation Decision"]

[Text] On 18 January, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a decree on further measures to regulate inflation processes and to partially alter decree No. 1041 (on the state regulation of prices).

The decree that has been signed is essentially a fundamental revision of the course outlined by the famous decree on the state regulation of prices, which many people assessed as drastic backpedalling from the reforms course. The first point of the new decree bans central organs of federal executive power from regulating and using fixed prices for nonmonopolist producers. The range of enterprises to which monopoly regulation extends is substantially narrowed.

The decree provides for toughening monetary credit policy. In particular it is planned to prevent the expenditure of monetary funds not guaranteed by their sources while the Ministry of Finances is instructed to elaborate within a month a program for financing the budget deficit with state bonds.

The Ministry of Finances is also instructed to introduce proposals for increasing budget revenue by increasing excise duty and import taxes on goods that do not have substantial impact on the living standard.

The government recommends that the Central Bank step up the struggle against inflation through monetary policy means, switch to the monthly declaration of the bank rate and to retain rates for growth and for the issue of credits on a basis which would slow down the rate of growth of prices. It is also planned to include on the government commission for credit policy the chairman of the Central Bank, who for some reason has not been on it.

The government also recommends that the Savings Bank increase the interest rate for deposits (at present it is fluctuating between 20 and 60 percent, which makes any savings pointless).

The government has also decided to elaborate tough criteria for granting benefits and aid to enterprises and in the first half of the year to carry out a series of exemplary reorganizations of insolvent state enterprises. The State Committee for the Administration of State Property is embarking on the elaboration of a provisional on the federal service (agency) for enterprises' insolvency.

With this decree the government directly repeals a number of points of the first decree on the state regulation of prices.

Vice Premier Boris Fedorov told IZVESTIYA with regard to this subject that the decree that has been published is not only a rectification of an error but also a substantial advance on the path of forming market regulators. To a certain extent it gives an idea of the government's course in the field of financial and economic policy. He also voiced the hope that the present decree will improve the coordination of the actions of the government and Central Bank, which under present conditions is of decisive importance.

Fedorov Says Government To Continue Tough Financial Policy

LD1801172493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1623 GMT 18 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—Russian Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fedorov said on Monday [18 January] the Government will continue to pursue a tough financial and economic policy.

"The strong ruble is the foundation from which everyone working for the normalisation of the situation in the country has to proceed," Fedorov told a news conference in Moscow on Monday.

He said the unsettlement of the problem of the ruble stabilisation will affect people most of all and called for measures to restrain budget "credit expansions."

He also stressed the need for steps to protect the ruble as the national currency, adding that "we need not to ban the dollar in the country but to ban the non-acceptance of the ruble, thus protecting the national currency so that it could freely circulate and that 90 per cent of people would not be discriminated in their own country."

The minister said the current exchange rate of the ruble "does not reflect the country's potential."

Says Ruble Stabilization Should Be 'Cornerstone'

OW1801210093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1845 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice Premier Boris Fedorov considers the government's January 18 resolution proof of the cabinet's devotion to the course of reforms. In response to a question from INTERFAX at a press conference in Moscow Monday [18 January] , he said, "Neither the prime minister, nor any of the vice premiers were opposed to a reconsideration. In this we were united."

Fedorov feels the current situation is not harming the reputation of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. He said the prime minister's readiness to repeal the resolution he signed on December 31 displayed both strength and confidence. The vice premier warned that the resolution on regulating inflation would require a tightening of financial, monetary, and credit policies.

Fedorov said that a strong ruble should be "the cornerstone" of government policy. He said the Cabinet of Ministers' task this year is to stabilize the national Russian currency and bring it to a level which reflects real purchasing power. The vice premier does not consider it necessary to ban currency trade in order to do so. He said they would have to force stores to accept the ruble.

Discussing the need for collaboration between the Central Bank and the government, Fedorov said the Cabinet of Ministers would welcome the inclusion of the Central Bank representative in the government commission on credit policy, which is being formed.

In response to a question on energy prices, the vice premier stressed that the government had already chosen to liberate energy prices and that now it is only a matter of time. Fedorov expressed his opinion that energy prices should be freed at the same time that price restrictions on other goods are lifted.

Views Support for Enterprises

LD1801232193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] [Announcer] The first news conference of Boris Fedorov, the new vice premier, started with apologies for several steps taken by the Cabinet of Ministers headed by Viktor Chernomyrdin. Vyacheslav Osipov, our correspondent, reports.

[Osipov] The December decree on state price control for certain types of goods is, in particular, the issue here. Fedorov admitted that its introduction was hasty. On 18 January a special session of the government took place regarding this question. This resulted in a new decree on the further regulation of inflationary processes, and partial changes to the government decree of 31 December. Boris Fedorov told journalists:

[Begin Fedorov recording] The decree in question clearly indicates that the government intends to step up the fight against inflation, the destabilization of the economy, and the collapse of the monetary system. It will strive to broaden the arsenal of methods for market regulation. In connection with this, sufficiently rigid formulations are used. In particular, the government has resolved to prohibit the central bodies of federal executive power from carrying out administrative regulation of prices which have already been liberalized, with the exception of enterprises that are in a monopolist position and where there is specific price regulation. [end recording]

[Osipov] Boris Fedorov also announced that measures for finance, monetary, and credit relations will become more rigid for curbing inflation. Mutual cooperation between the government and the Central Bank of Russia is becoming a key factor. Interest rates for investments in savings banks will be raised. Fedorov thinks that the rates should undergo a two-fold increase. The main clauses in the December decree become invalid. A number of important measures in the new decree directly affect enterprises.

[Begin Fedorov recording] The state cannot leave all enterprises to the mercy of fate right away, while a state which is here still the owner of the main bulk of enterprises will be forced to support them for some time to come. The questions are: How to support, where to use the money, what will be the criteria. If this money

goes to enterprises that are making no efforts to improve the situation and that squander it on wages and have not taken a single step to increase efficiency—and you know that in the country there has not been a single bankruptcy or liquidation of an enterprise and not a single director has been dismissed—then in this situation a whole range of measures has to be adopted in order to force enterprises to act more efficiently and adapt to the new conditions.

One must not shut one's eyes to the fact that the economy is already completely different from what it was previously. If help is needed, then this must be selective help and must be open without any hidden subsidies. Everyone must know where this money is going, because all this money comes out of the pocket of the workers. By dishing out this money, we are cutting the ground from underneath us: We are providing a stimulus to inflation, and with a weak ruble there will be no production and no quality of life. [end recording]

Economic Minister Hopes For End of Productivity Decline

OW1501155593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1442 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Economic Minister, Andrey Nechayev, said in an interview with the newspaper "Trud" that, since Gaydar resigned "there have been no anti-reform steps made by the government, so far." He also stated that the cabinet was striving to continue correctives begun last autumn to rectify certain former omissions without the risk of drifting away from the reform strategy.

Nechayev named industrial and structural policy as among the government's top priorities. He spoke out for support of enterprise, not through budget financing or special credits, but, for instance, through export-import tariffs, differentiated taxation and special investment credits.

Nechayev stated that the customs duties introduced last summer and reconsidered in the fall would not be reconsidered any time in the near future.

Principally, in his opinion, export-import tariffs should be introduced for trade with the former Soviet republics. Minimum duties should be set for imports of raw materials and equipment which Russia either does not produce itself or produces in insufficient quantities. Higher duties shall be set for imports of equipment which compete with Russian analogies. With regard to Russian exports, the highest duties will be set on raw materials and the lowest on finished, processed and high-tech goods.

Trade within the CIS, Nechayev remarked, would now proceed according to two regimes. The first, is for a broad range of goods included on a licensed list, which determines that such goods may be exported from Russia. Russian enterprises themselves may determine to whom, how much and at what price such goods are sold.

The second regime is for trade, primarily barter, from a short list of goods, supplies of which are guaranteed by the Russian government. The Russian state joint stock company Roskontrakt, whose controlling packet of stock is state-owned, will buy goods for these deliveries from Russian producers at domestic prices and sell them abroad at world prices.

Commenting on the current economic situation, Nechayev said that the problem of mutual debts among enterprises had returned. In his opinion, the financial infusions made last year to solve this problem did not bring about the expected results, since enterprises did not become more responsible about their finances. In conjunction with this, he was critical of the Central Bank's intention to carry out debt reconciliation among enterprises again, since this would now demand about 1 Tn rubles, not the 200 Bn needed last year, and the minister is convinced that this would lead to hyperinflation.

Nechayev also reported that the plan to implement the government's anticrisis program has been completed. The plan is made up of about 100 points and will soon be discussed in the government.

Nechayev called the list of goods on which profit margins had been set recently in accordance with a government resolution "gigantic." He is in favor of a significant reduction in the number of goods on the list. In addition to this, he said it was incorrect to see the document as an attempt to freeze prices. The minister said it would be a "disastrous mistake" to try to freeze wages.

The Minister of the Economy said that soon the government should decide to permit the sale of land and property for vouchers.

Nechayev thinks that in the first half of the year the decline in Russian productivity will continue, but that during the second half of the year, if a tough credit policy is in force, the country would succeed in stabilizing production levels.

Predicts Sharp Struggle on Privatization

OW1801183493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [18 January] in Moscow, at the conference of the chairmen of the territorial committees on property, Anatoliy Chubays, the Russian Vice Premier and the chairman of the State Committee on Property, declared that in 1993 the political situation around the privatization process can become sharply aggravated. He explained this by the existing disposition of forces in the Russian Supreme Soviet and by the fact

that the current year will become "a decisive year in the privatization of state property."

"We won in 1992, - the Vice Premier said, - and if we win in 1993 then we shall gain victory in general: it will be impossible to turn from the privatization process."

According to Chubays, the fiercest struggle will be unleashed around the attempts of "the communist opposition" to adopt a decree granting priority, rights and benefits to the working staff of the privatized enterprises. Chubays asserted that "the priority of the working staff" means that "the property is being confiscated from one half of the population and is being handed over to the other." In this case, he said, servicemen, pensioners, doctors, teachers, and other employees of budget organizations will be swindled out of their shares.

The Vice Premier pointed out that, despite the fact that in 1992 the incomes on privatization exceeded the planned ones by a factor of more than 2, and constituted 157 billion rubles, the State Committee on Property failed to fulfil the program with respect to the number of privatized enterprises. In his words, 46815 requests for privatization have been realized by the beginning of 1993 (this number constitutes 19% of all Russian enterprises). Chubays believes that the main cause of this is the complexity of the process required to register the privatization documents. He said that we have now managed to overcome this by delegating a part of the State Committee on Property's authorities to the territorial committees on property.

The Vice Premier said that "he sees that the President supports privatization." He also reported that he had "several talks with the head of the government, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and found no substantial disagreements concerning their attitudes towards the privatization." In particular, the Premier signed a draft of the privatization program for 1993 having not introduced any changes into it.

Finance Minister Criticizes Move To Increase Pensions

OW1801164493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1507 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The resolution passed by the Russian parliament Friday [15 January] on increasing old age pensions 1.9 times as of February 1 will mean that the 1993 budget will have to be completely reviewed, according to Finance Minister Vasiliy Barchuk, who was speaking to INTERFAX. Barchuk said that the draft of the above resolution had been prepared by parliament "in secret" and that the finance ministry had found out about it "only two days before the issue was discussed in parliament".

Barchuk was of the view that pensions for the better off categories should have been raised on a differentiated model. The decision to almost double all pensions would, he said, "inevitably lead to an increase in wages and other forms of payment." Finance Ministry calculations put the overall additional sum needed for this at 4.8 trillion rubles.

If, Barchuk said, the consolidated budget deficit was currently no greater than 6% of the GNP, this could rise to 10% taking the above figure (4.8 trillion rubles) into account. The minister saw the only way out as to "review VAT [value-added tax] again and increase this from 20% to 22%."

Economist Lvov Urges 'Certain Degree of Central Planning'

LD1501221693 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Video report by Aleksandr Lutskiy; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] The Russian Government's council for industrial policy was at work today in Moscow. Representatives of major enterprises and concerns met with academics to discuss the most urgent problems of the economy and examine possible ways of pulling it out of its crisis. In his speech, prominent economist Dmitriy Lvov stressed that we are undergoing a period of transition toward a market. For this reason, under no circumstances should we continue breaking down existing industrial and economic links. Not only that, but we must even reinstate a certain degree of central planning, similar to that practiced by Western companies. One of the Gaydar government's biggest mistakes, according to the academics, was that price liberalization was unleashed without establishing an appropriate taxation system. [passage omitted saying that pricing and taxation are interlinked; director of an ore-extraction plant gives his views and equates commercial banks to crooks]

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Chairs 15 Jan Presidium Session

N. Ossetian Military Discussed

PM1801115593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jan 93 First Edition p 1

[Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Press Center report under the "Official" rubric: "There Will Be No Guard or People's Militia in Ossetia"]

[Text] An extraordinary session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium has been held in the House of Soviets under the chairmanship of R.I. Khasbulatov.

The decisions of the North Ossetian SSR Supreme Soviet on the republic guard and people's militia were discussed. Guided by Point 5 of Article 114 of the Russian Federation Constitution, the Russian Federation

Supreme Soviet Presidium deemed that the decisions of the North Ossetian SSR Supreme Soviet on the republic guard and people's militia do not conform to the Russian Federation Constitution. The inadmissibility of creating on Russian territory armed formations not provided for in the Russian Federation's laws was noted. The Russian Federation Government and the Provisional Administration on the territory of the Ingush Republic and the North Ossetian SSR are entrusted with ensuring the safety of the inhabitants of the North Ossetian SSR's Prigorodnyy Rayon both during the state of emergency in this region and after the lifting of it.

Kozyrev, Grachev Speak

PM1501155093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 2

[Aleksandra Lugovskaya report: "R. Khasbulatov Intends To Wage a Serious Struggle Against the Criminal World and the Federal Information Center"]

[Text] That intention was voiced today at a joint sitting of the Supreme Soviet's chambers, by its chairman R. Khasbulatov. The speaker was categorical: "Sensible people from the government will submit candidacies to us, and we will discuss all the issues."

The discussion of the agenda for the sixth session lasted more than an hour and a half, instead of the planned 30 minutes. In his introductory address R. Khasbulatov said that the session's main task is to ensure the irreversibility of reforms by means of strengthening the legislative base. He drew particular attention to the struggle against the criminal world, which has declared war on the state, and he called it a "parallel power." R. Khasbulatov called for at least one whole week to be devoted to this issue. The creation of a legislative base for combating crime should be a priority.

According to the established tradition, the deputies showed considerable indignation about items published in the press. For instance, M. Poltoranin's interview for the newspaper L'UNITA about the events of 10 December 1992, which was reprinted by ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA. It was decided to hear a report on these events from the general prosecutor, who was given instructions to that effect by the last Congress. R. Khasbulatov proposed that the Federal Information Center be closed down completely and the money put back into the country's budget, and instructed lawyers to draft a corresponding decree. Deputy V. Tikhonov's proposal was adopted, namely to include the question of the Committee on the Mass Media on the session's agenda and to discuss amendments to the Law on the Press regarding the accountability of journalists for knowingly publishing false or unverified information.

It was decided to hear in the next few days a government briefing on urgent anticrisis measures, a report on the activity of the Central Bank of Russia, and, in the context of the privatization program, a draft law on giving labor collectives priority in privatization.

Two ministers were heard—A. Kozyrev concerning his statement in Stockholm, and P. Grachev, who delivered a briefing on the state of the Air Defense Forces. The military package of questions includes the discussion of "framework agreements in connection with the START II Treaty" and the distorted information on Russia presented by E. Shevardnadze at the United Nations, and also S. Baburin's proposal on the withdrawal of Russian warships from the Persian Gulf zone.

On 14 January the Law "On Military Service Obligation and Military Service" was due to be examined, following the amendments submitted by the president. However, it emerged that the draft had been handed to B. Yeltsin for examination... "with cuts." R. Khasbulatov called this a gross violation of procedure, and issued instructions for the "truth to be restored" on the basis of the stenographic record.

Federal Information Center Viewed

LD1501135793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1146 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow January 15 TASS—The question of the Federal Information Centre, set up in accordance with a decree signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on December 26, 1992, was again raised at a joint meeting of the two chambers of the Russian parliament here today.

"We have drafted a corresponding resolution of the Supreme Soviet, linked with the formation of this centre," Vice-Speaker Nikolay Ryabov explained. "It raises the question of its legality and expediency, as well as the problem of financing the new structure. We intend to forward this draft through the presidium to the parliamentary committees and commissions so that they would draw up corresponding conclusions. Then the draft will be submitted to the Supreme Soviet."

Commenting on Ryabov's explanation, Speaker Khasbulatov noted that the expediency of the Federal Information Centre was not questioned. As to its financing, he stated, it "can be effected only with the permission of the Supreme Soviet".

"No new federal structure can be financed without a corresponding decision of the supreme legislative body," Khasbulatov said. He recalled that he recommended the finance minister a few days ago, during the first meeting of the Supreme Soviet's presidium, "not to finance the centre. I also told the chairman of the budget commission to close the account if such financing is discovered and to transfer to the state budget the money remitted to the Federal Information Centre". "This is required by the law," Khasbulatov stated.

Minimum Pension Levels To Increase

OW1501164493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of Russia passed a resolution January 15 on, increasing minimum old age pensions starting February 1, 1993 by 1.9 times, setting the minimum level at 4,275 rubles a month for the general length of service, needed to receive a full pension.

Starting February 1 there are plans to increase the minimums of other pensions, and to calculate such pensions in proportion to increases in their minimum levels. This was done, taking into account price rises and in accordance with the law on increasing state pensions, which calls for their indexation to the increased cost of living.

Deputies did not heed the warnings of Finance Minister Vasiliy Barchuk that the establishment of a new level of minimum pensions would automatically increase minimum wage. In this case, he said, additional payments to the public in 1993 will cost about 15-16 Tn [trillion] rubles, which will cause prices to rise.

In addition to this, Barchuk said that Russia was again faced with a "cash clinch." The finance minister asked deputies to limit the increases in minimum pension levels and not to index them or to index pensions over 10,000 rubles as little as possible.

Draft on Demonstrations Endorsed

OW1501164593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The draft prepared by the Moscow mayor's office of a special Russian Supreme Soviet resolution on conducting mass meetings outside buildings of the highest organs of state power was endorsed January 15 at the Russian parliament Committee on the Mass Media. INTERFAX learned this from the committee's secretary Yuriy Luchimskiy.

The draft resolution specifies that the local authorities may give permission for such demonstrations only after receiving consent from the leaders of whatever organ, outside whose building the meeting or rally is to be held.

According to Luchimskiy, the draft will be considered by the Supreme Soviet this evening. He says the rush is due to the incident Friday [15 January] morning, when a Trudovaya Rossia picket hindered deputies from entering the House of Soviets.

'Labor Russia' Refused Floor

OW1501214393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov firmly refused to give the floor to Labour Russia movement representatives at Friday's [15 January] session of parliament. The movement picketed entrances to the building in the morning demanding six minutes for its leader Viktor Anpilov to make a statement. Khasbulatov told Labour Russia to submit their statement to the mass media committee.

After a meeting with Viktor Anpilov and a group of picketers the committee chairman, recently appointed head of the television and radio broadcasting company Ostankino, Vyacheslav Bragin, said it proved impossible to talk business with those people, because they needed a scandal. About their demand for time on the air for the Russian Communist Party the newly-appointed Ostankino boss said he was against anybody "making one's way to the TV camera in this ultimatum-like, indecent and impudent way. It is the company alone that can decide who should be given time on the air".

Deputies 'Beaten Up'

PM1801154993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jan 93 Morning Edition pp 1,2

[Aleksandra Lugovskaya report: "Minimum Pension Will Almost Double, Parliamentarians Decide, Some of Whom Were Beaten Up In Front of the White House"]

[Text] The morning joint session of the Russian Supreme Soviet chambers 15 January adopted the decree "On indexing the minimum pension to take into account changes in the price index for the fourth quarter of 1992." Beginning 1 February 1993 the minimum pension will be increased by almost 90 percent to 4,225 rubles [per month].

It has been decided to carry out a similar indexation once a quarter. In accordance with the decision adopted a differentiated coefficient will be applied to the other pensioners [i.e. those not on minimum pension]. These measures also presume the automatic raising of the minimum wage.

Unlike yesterday, when the businesslike mood was constantly disrupted by "deputies who hankered after the microphone" and, to use R. Khasbulatov's expression, "wasted the state's valuable time," the anxiety of the present session is due to external factors. The point is that since morning the entrances to the White House have been besieged by pickets with red flags. At the session it emerged that some deputies had been beaten up.

Deputy L. Ponomarev demanded that this question be discussed at the session because he had been beaten up by pickets and S. Baburin immediately advised him to report the assault to the medical station. It transpired

that the pickets had been organized by the Russian Communist Party and Working Russia. V. Anpilov, with whom A. Aslakhanov, leader of the parliamentary Committee on Questions of Legality, Law and Order, and the Struggle against Crime, and I. Boyko (of the protection service), had talks, announced the demands of those social organizations: to be given an opportunity to make a statement at the session in connection with the lack of access to TV air time. R. Khasbulatov asked the deputies not to turn the Supreme Soviet into a laboratory for political experiments and did not consider it necessary to give the pickets time to make their statements: "There have been so many statements here that a bald man could sprout hair and a man with hair could go bald in the meantime" he said, and advised city hall to grant permission for rallies to be held not in front of the White House but on Old Square.

Law on Heroes Adopted

LD1501213593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1819 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow January 15 TASS—The Russian Parliament has adopted in the second reading a law "on status of heroes of the Soviet Union, heroes of the Russian Federation and full holders of slava order".

Under the document, heroes' and holders' special services to the state and the people are recognized and they are given a number of rights and benefits, including the increase of all types of pensions, the liberation from payment of various taxes, benefits on medical, rest, prosthetic appliance and medicines provision, free use of public transportation and once a year—inter-city railway, air or water transport.

Heroes and order holders are freed from all communal payments, have the right for free property of apartments they occupy, as well as land lots for construction of private houses and dachas with an area of ten hundredth parts in towns and town-type settlements, and 30 hundredths parts in the countryside.

Under the law, they will be buried for free with military honors and a tomb stone to them will be done at the expense of the federal budget.

In case of death of a hero and an order holder, their wives and children aged under 18 will be given a one-time allowance to an amount of 20 minimum wages and salaries.

Spending Estimate Approved

LD1501213993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1922 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow January 15 TASS—A Russian Parliament session approved at today's joint meeting of chambers the spending estimate of the Russian Supreme Soviet for 1993.

On the whole, the estimate runs into 7,762 million roubles, "which corresponds to the 2,700 million roubles spent by the Supreme Soviet last year with due account of the price rise," said Head of the Parliamentary Commission on Budget, Plans, Taxes and Prices Aleksandr Pochinok.

He stressed there is no increase exceeding the price rise on a single estimate section. A total of 312 million roubles are drawn in the "salaries of people's deputies" section.

"The 230 billion rouble worth of spending on interparliamentary activities will make it possible to pay all the expenses at the minimum level," said Pochinok. "We will have to send only half of official delegation members on foreign trips," he added.

For the first time the estimate carries a provision on training of people's deputies and upgrading of their qualification: It is expected to spend 23 million roubles for these purposes. Spending on Congresses of Russian People's Deputies is planned at an amount of 177 million roubles. It is not much, taking into account the recent congress cost over 90 million roubles.

Spending on activities of parliamentary committees and commissions and deputy factions will be sharply increased to reach 158 million roubles.

A specific spending item will be maintenance of the Supreme Soviet staff. Economic spending practically does not envisage any intensive capital construction—"only provision of elementary office expenses".

Speaking on the planned spending on protection of Supreme Soviet facilities, "which are planned at their minimum", Pochinok said they "do not plan the purchase of 40,000 automatic rifles, as mass media claims". There was no such spending last year either, he said.

Transport spending of the parliament will be increased. "Still, measures are taken to half cars used by deputies, which now run into over 800," said Pochinok.

Session Summarized

LD1501234093

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2040 GMT on 15 January, broadcasts a 30-minute report on the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session in Moscow.

The report begins with the correspondent noting that the deputies discussed a law on pensions. Zakharov, chairman of the committee for social policy, said during the discussion that the need to increase pensions was caused by price increases during the last three months, the correspondent says. Finance Minister Barchuk then

gave the government's attitude to the matter. He said it would inevitably lead to wage increases and upset the adopted budget. The session adopted a resolution on indexation of minimum pensions.

During the morning session the deputies discussed bills on social policy, among others laws on social insurance and on trade unions. Zakharov said there should not be a law on trade unions, it should be part of a law on public organizations. Klochkov, chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, disagreed with him and tried to convince the deputies that a law on trade unions is necessary, the correspondent says. Deputy Labor Minister Kalashnikov gave the government position on the matter. In the period of the transition to market economic relations it is necessary to form a state system of social insurance, he said. The correspondent notes that President Yeltsin issued a decree last August making the government responsible for social insurance policy using the experience of trade unions in the matter. A resolution was adopted to prepare a law on social insurance in three months' time and for the commission for social policy to organize hearings of this issue in the Supreme Soviet.

During the evening session the deputies adopted a law on the status of heroes of the Soviet Union, heroes of the Russian Federation, and full holders of the Slava Order.

In conclusion the correspondent notes that Selivanov, chief of the Main Staff of the Navy, informed the session that last September two Russian military ships were sent to the Persian Gulf to demonstrate the Russian Federation's support for the UN sanctions against Iraq. The ships returned home at the beginning of January. But since the situation in the Gulf has not normalized but has, on the contrary, aggravated, the president has issued another decree to the effect that another Russian ship should be sent to the region. Two more ships arrived in the Gulf on 1 January. During the latest allied forces' attack on Iraq the ships were withdrawn from the northern part of the Gulf well in advance.

Khasbulatov Says Parliament Will Not Approve Budget

OW1701120093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Speaker of Russia's parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, the parliament cannot approve the 1993 budget estimates submitted last year by the Gaydar government. The document, he told the Moscow TV channel on Saturday [16 January], is directed against free market and fails to take into account the rights of individual regions to make decisions on the issues within their competence independently. The parliament, its speaker said, has to do much to correct these mistakes.

With reference to the referendum scheduled for April, Ruslan Khasbulatov noted that he cannot imagine "what issues concerning power structures can be subjected to public debates." All provisions concerning the new democratic government structures have already been defined. No one disputes the fate of the congress of people's deputies either: the 1,040 members of the congress are convinced that the institution in question already served its purpose, and that it should be replaced by a permanently functioning legislature.

Khasbulatov believes that the conflict between the executive and the legislative authorities began when the parliament set out to accomplish one of its essential tasks: control over the government's activity.

Notwithstanding many parliamentary inquiries, the government still avoids submitting a report on its currency spending. The parliament is in a position to suggest that the government should resign for having violated constitutional provisions, the speaker said.

With reference to the president's decree on forming a federal information center, Ruslan Khasbulatov said that the parliament will abolish that agency, since its forming violates the bill on the press and introduces censorship banned by the Constitution.

Khasbulatov Meets Visiting Japanese Parliament Delegation

LD1601130093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov today received a Japanese Parliament delegation headed by Yushio Sakurauchi, chairman of the House of Representatives, at the White House today. The delegation is in Russia at the invitation of the Russian Parliament.

Ruslan Khasbulatov noted that adding dynamism to the existing ties between Russia and Japan will undoubtfully help solve all the other questions. Sakurauchi, in his turn, said that the Japanese people are intereseted in establishing freindly relations and cooperation with Russia, on the basis of a peace treaty being concluded between the two countries.

Further on Khasbulatov Meeting

OW1601142493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1344 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The conclusion of a bilateral peace treaty and the problem of the northern territories are sitting topmost on the agenda of Russian-Japanese relations. Both are to be approached in all fairness and with due respect of law. The Chairman of the House of Representatives of the Japanese Parliament Yushio Sakurauchi has said as much at a reception hosted by the head of the Russian Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov, in Moscow.

Yushio Sakurauchi felt the conclusion of a peace treaty and the solution of the territorial dispute would give an

additional boost to bilateral relations. He stressed both his people and government were harboring friendly feelings toward Russia.

The head of the Japanese delegation to Moscow appreciated the Russian Parliament's decision to work for a constructive and historically valid settlement of the territorial dispute. Japan, on its part, would be willing to help Russia build an upgraded infrastructure and train cadre for its economic reform. Sakurauchi said Japan was especially interested in helping the regions that lie east of the Urals.

Yushio Sakurauchi invited Ruslan Khasbulatov to head an official parliamentary delegation to Japan.

Khasbulatov appreciated the invitation for an early visit to Tokyo and said he saw the need for deeper-going and more dynamic contacts between the Russian and Japanese peoples.

Territorial Dispute Discussed

OW1701015793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0143 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 17 KYODO—House of Representative Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi on Saturday [16 January] told Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, "Japanese people wants to resolve (the territorial dispute over four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido) based on law and principle of Justice," Japanese officials said.

Sakurauchi who heads a delegation from the House of Representatives also extended an invitation to Khasbulatov to Japan. However Supreme Soviet chairman's reply was not immediately known.

Khasbulatov told the Japanese delegation that Japan and Russia should maintain good neigborly relations. He added once dynamic relations between the two countries is established, other issues can be settled down, the officials said. But he apparently avoided to directly refer to the territorial issue.

Khasbulatov has insisted on stronger initiative of the Russian legislature over the long-standing territorial issue between Russia and Japan. He is also considered as a politician against Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Committee Chairman on Ratification of START II, Gulf

OW1801191993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1846 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The speaker of the Supreme Soviet of Russia Ruslan Khasbulatov has approved of the proposal by the international affairs and external economic ties committee for holding, approximately in March, the second stage of parliamentary hearings on preparations for the ratification of START 2 together with the representatives of the US Congress, committee chairman Yevgeniy Ambartsumov said.

He said that the American side had suggested holding a television bridge between Russian and American lawmakers and experts in course of the preparation for the ratification of the START 2 treaty.

Ambartsumov said that for the time being he was unable to make a thorough analysis of the entire package of START 2 documents, because it hadn't been submitted to the Supreme Soviet yet. At the same time he described the treaty as "exceptionally important", and that the conclusion of that treaty by the two countries "must be regarded as a favorable act in general".

At the same time Ambartsumov said that he was against "hasty evaluations of that treaty either in enthusiastic or utterly negative terms."

About the situation in the Persian Gulf Ambartsumov said that there was "clear evidence of Iraq's violations of the UN Security Council resolution, for which Russia once voted". At the same time the leader of the parliamentary committee said that "Russia must not stay indifferent to the methods used to stop Iraqi action".

"I believe that we must be interested not in the expansion of military operations in the region, but in settling the conflict by peaceful, political means", Ambartsumov said. He noted he was surprised about the position of some of Russian MPs [members of parliament] who claimed that Iraq was Russia's friend and ally although it was a country ruled by a dictator, Saddam Husayn.

Regional Affairs

Ethnic Policy Groups Help Ingush Form Authority Bodies

OW1501163893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ethnic policy committees representing nine North Caucasian units of the Russian Federation will help Ingushetia form its bodies of state authority. This was decided on Thursday [14 January] at the first regional meeting of the Russian State Committee on Ethnic Policy held in Pyatigorsk, Stavropol Territory.

Vladimir Lysenko, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Ethnic Policy, said it had in principle been agreed that the North Caucasian ethnic policy committees should be put under dual control, which would, in his opinion, provide for more efficient implementation of federal programs, such as those for the revival of various peoples of the Russian Federation, the rehabilitation of persecuted peoples, the revival of Cossack traditions, and the North Caucuses interregional program.

Several documents were also drafted at the meeting. However, Lysenko fears that one of them, the draft regulations for the settlement of the North Ossetian-Ingush conflict, will be torpedoed by the North Ossetians. He said the North Ossetian delegation insists on the removal from it of what is its main point, the provision on the simultaneous disarmament of the illegal armed detachments. North Ossetian officials say their National Guard is not an illegal formation but was set up by the parliament of the North Ossetian Republic and its existence is in line with the republic's constitution.

Komi Interior Ministry Bans Workers' Detachments

OW1901171193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Interior Ministry of the Russian Federation's Komi Republic said it will not allow the formation of any armed workers' detachments in Vorkuta. Responding to media reports to the effect that Vorkuta coal miners are going to form armed detachments to maintain law and order, the ministry said this would be an unnecessary measure and would, moreover, considerably aggravate the situation in the city and miners' villages, leading to "lawlessness, bloodshed, and deaths."

The ministry admitted, however, that the crime rate is indeed going up in Vorkuta and miners' villages.

'Special' Units To Replace Peacekeepers in Ossetia

PM1501165193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Jan 93 p 1

[Vladimir Maryukha report: "State of Emergency Expires, Troops Remain"]

[Text] The state of emergency regime in North Ossetia and Ingushetia expires 31 January, but the population's security must also be guaranteed after that date. Therefore, as stated by Major General Aleksandr Kotenkov, head of the Interim Administration in the State of Emergency region, permanent command posts with suitable military provision will be opened in Prigorodnyy and Nazranovskiy Rayons. One of the options proposed by the Interim Administration to the Russian Government even envisages the extension of the state of emergency regime in these regions.

Meanwhile the North Ossetian parliament has decided that the republican guard and the republic's home guard will not disarm as envisaged by the decree of the Seventh Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies. This decision can only aggravate the situation in the region where, Aleksandr Kotenkov said, an additional brigade of Russian internal troops is being sent.

The servicemen are still the only force here capable of preventing an escalation of the bloodshed. The units currently operating in the state of emergency region, whose servicemen are shown in the accompanying photograph, will shortly be replaced by special subunits which are ready to operate in any emergency situation. They will make up the newly formed internal troops district in the North Caucasus.

Sakhalin Officials Ask Yeltsin To Remove Governor

OW1501083493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0816 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 15 KYODO—Senior members of the Sakhalin provincial assembly have asked Russian President Boris Yeltsin to remove Valentin Fyodorov from the governorship, assembly sources said Friday. Fyodorov has been serving since 1990 as chairman of the executive committee and governor of the Russian far east province of Sakhalin, which administers four islands off Hokkaido disputed by Russia and Japan.

Fyodorov, an expert on economic affairs, is known for his opposition to Japanese demands for the return of the four islands, seized by the Soviet Army at the end of World War II.

According to the sources, a meeting of the senior assembly members has adopted a statement calling on Yeltsin to designate a new Sakhalin governor with the consent of the provincial assembly. The sources added that it is uncertain whether the assembly will give its approval if the Russian president names Fyodorov to another term as governor.

As reasons for the senior assembly members' dissatisfaction over Fyodorov, the sources pointed to a sluggish economy in Sakhalin and to Fyodorov's lack of attention to state-run enterprisee.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Holds News Conference on Moscow Talks

Cited on U.S. Relations

LD1801193893 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 18 Jan 93

[News conference by President Leonid Kravchuk in Kiev following his return from talks in Moscow; individual correspondents identified where possible—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Unidentified correspondent] What does Ukraine expect from the government of newly elected U.S. president Bill Clinton, who will soon be the new master of the White House? Thank you.

[Kravchuk] Ukraine would like to...[changes thought] I discussed this with President Bush and when I greeted Clinton on his election as president, the fact that Ukraine would like the May treaties signed by President Bush in the White House to develop and to be enriched and relations between the United States and Ukraine to develop and broaden. This is our greatest wish. We began our relations with quite a serious package of documents, but they are not exhausted and by far do not exhaust our possibilities. The relations we have at the moment—say with the Bush administration, with the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine—are hopeful. They confirm that the United States would like relations with Ukraine to be good—as with any state—and the policy with Ukraine to be built only with Ukraine's interests—and not those of other states—in mind. Then we will have good relations. We would like these types of relations.

I hope the administration of the new president—as a rule, this is U.S. tradition, considering the succession in politics, including foreign policy—will be guided by the interests of both states and the interests of Ukraine, which is in Europe and which can play a certain, I would even say a significant and stabilizing role, in Europe and throughout the whole region during this complicated time when the last and the biggest empire in the world is being destroyed. [passage omitted]

Cited on Ratifying START I

LD1801195593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 18 Jan 93

[News conference by President Leonid Kravchuk in Kiev following his return from talks in Moscow; individual correspondents identified where possible—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Kravchuk] As far as ratification of the START I Treaty is concerned, I have spoken about there being a corresponding need to present several serious arguments to our parliament in favor of ratification. I understand the concern of parliament and the deputies. It is their right to dig for the truth, because they are voting for a relevant document that has great significance for the consequences of our state, our security, our strength, and our power. We should give the deputies such arguments.

The first argument is security guarantees. Such drafts have been prepared, as I already know, by the Russian side, and the U.S. President also has agreed with the Ukrainian position, so that the United States is to give an appropriate security guarantee. This is the first thing. I believe that when we read these documents to the deputies they will understand that these are not simply words but real steps toward guarantees.

Second is the financial-legal side of the matter, what costs are fixed, what part of the costs should be repaid to us, and what assistance, for example with regard to destroying nuclear weapons, should be given. I believe that Ukraine, as a state that is third in nuclear strength, that is voluntarily laying down these nuclear weapons in accordance with the Treaty, also should claim help regarding their destruction, especially as we have, you know, an economic crisis, and it is very difficult to expect us to manage this task on our own. That is, everyone is interested in decreasing nuclear strength. Help is needed to carry out this destruction. We do not want to be viewed as doing some sort of trading or to gain some sort of dividend from this. Absolutely not. It is for destruction, and destruction is a complex, very complex, technological process. This is the second thing.

The third thing is the very method of this destruction—who, when, and over what period. I previously have stated the figure for you; the 130 complexes with fuel, located here in Ukraine. Equipping them with their components took place with the help of Russian technology; accordingly, another class of missiles located in Ukraine and beyond Ukraine's boundaries, on Russian soil, also were equipped with components with the help of Ukrainian specialists, in particular those from our southern Kharkov plant association [nashe obyednannya Pivdennyy Kharkivskyy Zavod]. In this way we should agree on how all this is going to happen.

So, I expect that after we present these arguments to parliament, it will not reject our former position expressed in the declaration [of Sovereignty], in the relevant resolutions of the Supreme Council, where it has been said that Ukraine is striving to become a nonnuclear state in the future, and that this should take place in accordance with laws and agreements which will be adopted by the Supreme Council, and which will be based on international documents on this matter. [passage omitted]

News Conference Summarized

LD1801182293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1519 GMT 18 Jan 93

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Serious news from Kiev has already been broadcast in our Panorama today. I think that our special

correspondent Vladimir Sokolov in the capital of Ukraine will add something to it. Go ahead please, Vladimir

[Sokolov] Today Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk held a news conference for Ukrainian and foreign correspondents on the results of the recent talks in Moscow with Russia's President Boris Yeltsin. However, the correspondents were a little disappointed since Leonid Kravchuk practically did not comment upon the Moscow talks, sticking just to listing the agreements signed. He noted that these agreements had been concluded in a very difficult situation and stressed that perhaps the most important thing at the talks was the question of Ukraine signing the START I Treaty and the elimination of nuclear weapons on its territory. he expressed confidence that the START I Treaty would be ratified by the Ukrainian Parliament on condition that its deputies receive certain guarantees of Ukraine's national security, and practical confirmation of financial aid for eliminating nuclear weapons.

Replying to questions, the president explained that an accord has not yet been reached regarding the distribution of foreign debt, and that Ukraine and Russia put forward their proposals to the Paris and London Club of creditors of the former Union.

On the other hand, the president dwelled in detail on the problems of signing the draft charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States, perhaps also because before the news conference itself, rather imposing nationalistic forces tried to picket the presidential residence, but they were not admitted into it. The pickets demanded that the CIS Charter should not be signed on any account, regarding it as an imperial yoke upon Ukraine, the placards read. Leonid Kravchuk admitted that as far as the CIS Charter is concerned, two opposing public groups have been formed in Ukraine—one is for Ukraine signing this Charter as reinforcing the CIS, the other is resolutely against it, going as far as insisting that Ukraine should leave the CIS.

The president thinks that these two extreme viewpoints are unacceptable. He repeated that the draft charter is so vague that it will allow any of its articles to be interpreted arbitrarily later, and that means that clear additional clauses are still needed for every article. In his view, the main thing is that this Charter should be preceded by an interstate economic agreement within the framework of the CIS defining and guaranteeing the economic ties necessary for these states.

Having dwelled upon the problems of providing Ukraine with oil, without which its economy is literally choking now, Leonid Kravchuk noted in particular that in any event the economy of Ukraine is capable of resolving that problem, if only because the value of its possible metal export considerably exceeds the value of oil, even at world prices. But it is still keeping to the course of Ukraine using the abandoned oil wells of siberia, as was agreed in moscow, in addition to the quota of 20 million tonnes of oil allocated to Ukraine by Russia.

Leonid Kravchuk ended with a resolute protest against the attempts to label Ukraine with the image of destroyer of the CIS. On the contrary, he stressed, Ukraine is striving to enhance the efficiciency and effectiveness of the Commonwealth of Independent States, making criticism when the need arises. That is it.

Further on Kravchuk's Comments

OW1801191293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1845 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking at a news conference upon the end of his visit to Moscow the Ukrainian President described it in positive terms. He said his meeting with Yeltsin was necessary and eased many problems in relations between Ukraine and Russia.

Although Russia will supply Ukraine with only 20 million tons of oil, which is clearly not enough, Kravchuk said he pinned great hopes on Russia's promise to grant Ukraine a share in oil concessions. Ukrainian representatives have already left for West Siberia in order to help increase oil production, President Kravchuk said. A separate inter-government treaty is going to be signed on that issue.

Compromises were achieved on the problem of the Black Sea fleet and approaches specified to the fleets of both countries after the transitional period. A new commander of the Black Sea fleet was appointed jointly.

Central to the news conference was President Kravchuk's answer to the outlook for the ratification of the START I treaty by the Ukrainian parliament. President Kravchuk hopes the document will be approved by the law-makers. His reasons for optimism are these: 1. Almost all people's deputies of Ukraine have studied the written guarantees of Ukraine's security given by Russia and the United States. 2. The question of Russia's compensation to Ukraine for the nuclear materials from the warheads has been settled in principle. Leonid Kravchuk also mentioned the presence of other nuclear powers acting as safeguards of security guarantees - Britain, France and China.

About the payment of the former USSR's foreign debts President Kravchuk said that Ukraine hoped it would be able to pay its share of the former Soviet Union's debt.

The Ukrainian President repeated his attitude to the CIS: Ukraine stays within the Commonwealth but avoids signing its Charter and places the emphasis on bilateral ties.

Asked about the idea of a Slav commonwealth as a counter-balance to the Central Asian one, Kravchuk said

that in principle that union would be possible on equitable terms of partnership. "This is a good idea, but it hasn't been discussed yet", he said.

Prospects for Adoption of START, CIS Charter

WS1501133393 Kiev RADA in Ukrainian 7 Jan 93 p 1

[Article by O. Dubyna: "Whom Does Russia Want To Spank?"]

[Text] At the end of last year, the president of Russia suddenly got sick, turning his back on the fate of the CIS. The immortal Kozma Prutkov would have said: "He was unselfish, like a hero, but he was laid up with a cold".

This happened on the eve of the planned Russian-Ukrainian summit and the conference of the CIS leaders. Speaking about this unpleasant surprise, the Russian mass media mentioned that Kazakh President N. Nazarbayev had the same problem, although the latter claimed that he had never felt better and was ready for the conference. At the same time, the tireless Ostankino [Russian Television] reporters and all the Moscow newspapers, as if at somebody's command, launched a frenzied anti-Ukrainian campaign: "These stubborn khokhols [scornful name for Ukrainians] are ruining the Commonwealth, pursuing their own petty selfish ends".

On 2 January, Boris Nikolayevich, like the mythological Phoenix, arose from ashes. Moreover, he went to see his "friend George" (G. Bush), wearing no fur cap, with the temperature exceeding 20 degrees below zero [centigrade]. For a friend like Mr. Bush, one would do anything, he's so different from the "toy presidents" of the artificial independent CIS states! Such is the president of Russia. He turned his back on the CIS, overcame the perfidious disease and...signed the START II treaty. As it had been expected, the treaty was positively assessed by the world community. Yet, through the Russian press euphoric smokescreen, one could see a different side of the START II. For example, Brian Friedman, an ASSOCIATED PRESS observer, pointed out that as a result of the treaty, the United States gained a nuclear advantage over Russia. But the issue of Russia's national security is its personal affair.

For us another aspect of the treaty is extremely important—the costs of its realization. The majority of leading experts considers that Russia will not be able to bear the costs of the arms race just like the Soviet Union in its time. Although the United States has promised our northern neighbor as much as...$400 million. This is a drop in the ocean. The United States will allot $175 million to Ukraine, while the minimum demand is $1.5 billion. Russia might be able to cover the difference between the real costs of nuclear weapons destruction and the United States grant (although it is rather unlikely), while Ukraine, of course, does not have funds for it, even if it spends all the money on disarmament alone.

This issue has yet another side. By signing the treaty without any participation by Kiev, Minsk, and Alma-Ata, Moscow once again clearly demonstrated its attitude toward the "CIS brothers". Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs A. Kozyrev said that the fate of "Russian (!) nuclear weapons will not be solved 'behind the backs' of Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan". What is the meaning of this? Did the nations on whose territories the weapons are deployed not participate in their creation, did they not expose themselves to the danger of becoming the objects of a nuclear attack, did they not allot money for the nuclear monsters' maintenance? Other nations of the former Soviet Union also took pains to create the "nuclear shield of the socialist Motherland". The Kremlin has completely "forgotten" about them. Moscow does not want to mention such "trifles" as the price of the nuclear warheads, or ways to utilize them for peaceful purposes. On Russian warheads, Kremlin politicians may have a special point of view, but considering Ukrainian warheads, they have a clear cut opinion: "Ukraine's nuclear disarmament should be carried out immediately!" Meanwhile, the Academician I. Yukhnovskyy says that every year Ukraine has to spend $100 million on the fuel for its nuclear power plants. These expenditures could be substantially cut due to the utilization of the nuclear warheads deployed on the Ukrainian territory. Besides, and this is extremely important in the current unstable situation, nuclear weapons, in a way, guarantee Ukraine's security.

This is why President Kravchuk's declaration, saying that the Russian-American START II treaty did not impose any obligations on Ukraine, can be regarded as well considered. At the same time, the president expressed hope that the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet would ratify the START I treaty and by doing so, would contribute to the liberation of the world from nuclear weapons. This is a very realistic stance. The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet would hardly have ratified the START I treaty, skipping over the preliminary stage and ignoring the national security interests. Besides, it seems that in Russia itself, the Supreme Soviet will not ratify the treaty, notwithstanding President Yeltsin's optimistic forecasts, at least not at the first attempt. Thus, why become the fist to disarm at all costs? And furthermore, why head for the mirage of a CIS, created by the rules of its Moscow designers?

President Kravchuk's advice for the authors of the CIS Charter was: "Let them get down to work and spend at least 10 years at it." This is a sound proposal, because we are forced to sign a raw abstract document, "to be specified in the process of finalization." We have enough! For more than 75 years we had been told about the Leninist "nation's right to self determination, up to secession," the constitutional term of "a sovereign socialist state within the USSR" and the like. At the conference of the leaders of parties, movements, and public organizations on 4 January, President Kravchuk said: "Russia has never given up its intentions to be a superpower and the leading force in the CIS and outside

the CIS." Summing up the discussion of the charter the president emphasized: "These documents and this stance do not correspond to either our possibilities and our legislative norms or our nation's basic interests."

The main argument of the advocates of the charter's adoption is this: if we do not sign this document Russia will halt its oil, gas, and timber shipments. This was totally refuted by L. Kravchuk. He quoted B. Yeltsin's telegram, saying that Russia will not determine quotas for Ukraine or for any other state, it will only determine the total quota of raw materials to be sold outside Russia. "You will have to reach agreements with Tyumen [area rich in natural resources] producers yourself," said the Ukrainian president. These agreements will be harder and harder to achieve due to the crisis in Russia's oil industry. Last year's oil production was 395 million metric tonnes instead of 480 million as had been estimated by the Ministry of Economy. This year's production is forecasted at 350 million metric tonnes. Nobody knows how it will be in reality.

Anyway the Russian Supreme Soviet publication ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA depicts the situation this way: "The enterprises from our neighboring republics will have to pay hard currency, like all other foreigners" (the 5 January issue). Thus, the "CIS brothers" were treated like "these other foreigners". The newspaper proceeds: "Perhaps the view if Ukrainians, Moldovans, and Georgians enduring such hardships will make some people happy. But even if we grant our former compatriots hunger rations, we will hardly be able to stop the degradation of our oil industry." This means that in the nearest future, Russia itself may face a shortage of energy resources.

This means that we can only count on our own potential and look for new partners. It is high time we pass from gala ceremonies in the international arena to concrete actions, and make the previously signed agreements work for our economy. Of course, it takes time but we have run out of it.

In its foreign policy, Russia will secure its own interests; even the most ardent CIS advocates, led by N. Nazarbayev, understand this. A meeting of the leaders of four Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan took place on 4 January in Tashkent and in fact created a new commonwealth of states—Central Asia (CA). So far its leaders do not reject participation in the CIS, but if the Minsk summit becomes a failure (take care of your health, Boris Nikolayevich, do not go out without a cap!), there are plans to hold an extraordinary conference of the CA countries in Ashkhabad. Thus, an important counterbalance to Moscow's imperialistic designs is being created.

A year ago, someone called the creation of the CIS "a union of two fur caps (meaning Russia and Belarus) and five skull caps (Central Asia and Kazakhstan)." It seems that the skull caps are going out of the CIS. Considering that Yeltsin wears no fur cap in winter sacrificing his health "for the good of the Motherland," Belarus may be the only one to keep "the cap". Will Ukraine join it?

Official on START Group's Visit to Missile Unit

LD1501210393

[Editorial Report] Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian at 2000 GMT on 14 January broadcasts a five and a half minute report on the visit to a missile unit by a group of Ukrainian deputies working on ratification of the START II Treaty.

The report begins by noting that the group of deputies formed by the Supreme Council of Ukraine to work on ratification of the START Treaty, in the last few days visited a missile unit with a strategic role. Valeriy Lemish [name as heard], chairman of the Supreme Council's standing commission for issues of defense and state security, headed the group, the reporter says.

On being asked the purpose of the visit, V.Lemish replies that the time has come for such a visit. He adds that apart from the commission, the working group set up by the Supreme Council Presidium also joined the trip. That group comprised 23 deputies from various commissions.

In answer to a question about what they saw there, Lemish replies that they saw everything within reason: what a missile complex is, where the missile is, the command post, the security bodies, the servicemen's quarters, and spoke to the commanders.

Asked if it would be possible to destroy the missiles, and in what period of time, if the START Treaty is ratified, Lemish replies:

"I cannot tell you anything precisely at this time. Our study continuing. We have been working on this (?for more than a month). And not only we deputies, naturally, but scientists are working on it, designers, enterprises which have done things and which know what to do, together with the military. The study is continuing. When we have studied it, and are approaching it, then it will be clear."

Asked about the mood of parliament regarding ratification, Lemish replies: "The mood of the majority is that Ukraine plans to become a nonnuclear state in the future. But Ukraine and the deputies, the mood of parliament, want to know in detail what it will mean for Ukraine. And these same three issues come up again: First, this is a guarantee of Ukraine's security.

"Second, how much will it cost for Ukraine? We have seen that this is a very expensive construction and it was also made by the people of Ukraine—and the (?role) of the Ukrainian people there is great. How much is it going to cost, so that it is not wasted, with our economy, and so on?

"And third, it is this issue, it relates [word indistinct] to the second one. Well, what to do with the nuclear

warheads, and how to resolve them wisely so that Ukraine sees and knows its (?role) there, and receives it.

"This is our experience, that we gave away our tactical nuclear weapons. We gave them away, and now we do not know where they are, what they are, and how they are. Well, [word indistinct] for this, this is what our visit is for, and for the interest of [word indistinct] deputies. And until we study all these issues, until all the deputies know consciously what this matter represents, it will be difficult to go toward [word indistinct] of these talks. It will be difficult. Because, when we reveal all this, and everything is clear to deputies, then it can be boldly submitted for ratification."

Lemish is then asked about the arguments of the opponents of ratification. He replies that their arguments are almost the same, but in another form: "what will happen to Ukraine, what will we defend our state with, (?first) And the second issue: How much will this cost for Ukraine, this destruction, and so on, and so on?"

In conclusion Lemish is asked what Ukraine would do if a guarantee for its security is not given. He replies:

"It is not very simple to reply to this question at the moment, of how Ukraine would act. But we will do everything so that by our own efforts, so that Ukraine has a guarantee, it is defended. We will think. Both the government and the Supreme Council will think about how to (?ensure) this."

National Affairs

All-Crimean Movement Organizes Rally in Sevastopol

LD1701163993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] A rally organized by the all-Crimean movement "Voters for the Republic of Crimea" [Izbirateli za respubliku Krym] was held on Nakhimov Square in Sevastopol today. Fifteen thousand people took part in the rally, the Ekspres Khronika agency reports. The participants demanded the annulment of the moratorium on referendums in Crimea, and also put forward a number of socioeconomic demands addressed to the authorities of Sevastopol, Crimea, and Ukraine.

Charge Kiev With Nationalist, Fascist Policies

OW1701171093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] More than 10,000 people are reported to have been involved in an anti-Ukrainian demonstration in Sevastopol - the Black Sea Fleet's base - on Sunday [17 January].

The demonstration was called by the National Salvation Front and the Public Campaign for the Republic of Crimea, two political groups urging for the independence of Crimean territory and transfer of Sebastopol under Russia's jurisdiction.

In an appeal to the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, the protesters accused the Ukrainian government of pursuing nationalist and fascist policies which led to a huge social upheaval.

They also expressed solidarity with coalminers of the Donetsk region who had condemned the Ukrainian president's decision not to sign the CIS charter and demanded that Kiev recall its representative in Sevastopol and rescind its moratorium on a referendum on the territory's independence by setting a new date for the plebescite not later than this March.

The rally ended in a street march.

Demonstration Outside Supreme Soviet Over CPSU Ban

LD1801153893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] As reported by Vladimir Semelnikov, correspondent of the NOVOSTI DNYA agency, a demonstration, organized by a number of political organizations with a national orientation, has taken place in Kiev, in the square next to the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine, where deputies supporting a ban on the activities of the CPSU gathered for a conference. The participants in the demonstration, numbering several thousand, demanded that the ban on the activities of the CPSU be maintained and that the CIS Statute not be signed. Clashes took place between representatives of opposing groups. The militia stayed neutral.

Protest CIS Charter

OW1801181793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1509 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] More than two thousand people took part in a protest demonstration Tuesday [19 January, as received] outside the parliamentary building. The demonstration was organised by the Ukranian National Assembly, and those who took part had passed a resolution not to sign the CIS Charter, INTERFAX was informed. They demanded that heads of administration who had sullied themselves by collaborating with communist and pro-imperial forces be removed from their posts and brought to justice.

The demonstrators appealed to President Leonid Kravchuk to take on the responsibility for the state and reforms, take steps to achieve the dissolution of parliament, and head the Ukrainian government himself.

Dnepropetrovsk Wants CIS Charter Signed, Others Opposed

OW1801134493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sunday's [17 January] session of the Regional Council and Executive Committee in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, attended by enterprise managers, appealed to the Ukrainian parliament, president, and government to sign the CIS Charter.

At the same time, the Dnepropetrovsk Region's Rukh organizations, the Ukrainian Republican Party, and other national democratic forces, decided to send their members to Kiev to picket the parliament building. They oppose Ukraine's signing of the CIS Charter and demand that parliament abrogate its decree banning the Ukrainian Communist Party.

Communists Seek To Hold Congress in Odessa

LD1501221593 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] News agencies are reporting that a group of representatives of the former Communist Party of Ukraine is likely to try and hold a constituent congress in Odessa. ITAR-TASS names the date. It is Saturday 16 January.

The possibility that this assembly will be held outside the boundaries of the city, and even in the well-known Odessa catacombs, cannot be excluded, since the organizers of the congress have been refused a venue.

Conference of Communists Blocked

LD1701165593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2200 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] A constituent conference of Communists of Ukraine opened in the morning in Odessa on 16 January, reported UKRINFORM. At 0800 am, 74 delegates from 14 regions of Ukraine began to assemble near the palace of culture of construction workers named after Lesya Ukrayinka. This took place regardless that several days prior to the congress the Executive Committee of the Council of People's Deputies of Odessa, refused to rent the premises to the organizational committee. The hope of the delegates that this decision would be canceled was not justified.

Then the head of the organizational committee, Oleksandr (?Mayorov), opened the constituent congress of the Communists of Ukraine right there in the street near the doors of the closed palace of construction workers. And here is another bit of information on this event: about 400 activists of Rukh, the Ukrainian Republican Party, and other national democratic organizations, members of the coalition Democratic Odessa, blocked the entrance to the building of the palace of construction workers where the congress of Communists was to take place and prevented it from taking place.

Not being able to attend the congress, the delegates, Communists, laid flowers to the monument to Lenin, and then left for home. Rukh and other members of the coalition Democratic Odessa, sent the president and Supreme Council of Ukraine an appeal not to allow a trial [as heard] over the Communist Party. Rukh and its allies are demanding that a public trial be held on the crimes committed by the Communist Party.

Belarus

Officer Claims West's Informant Network 'Extensive'

OW1801162793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1512 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Western intelligence services have established an extensive network of informers, recruited both from among Belarusian and foreign citizens, on the territory of independent Belarus, said Major-General Valeriy Artsykov, chief of the Belarusian KGB's Mogilev Region department. He said at a press conference that, for accounts in foreign banks, Belarusian citizens sell "serious national secrets" and help Western intelligence recruit others. The traitors will sooner or later be exposed and their names made public, the general said.

According to Artsykov, in 1992 there were 20 foreign citizens in Mogilev Region suspected of collaborating with foreign intelligence. Most of the spies came accompanying shipments of humanitarian aid, he said.

Altogether, he said, Belarus was last year visited by 10,000 foreign citizens, and by 100,000 Belarusian citizens living abroad, 70,000 of them coming as tourists.

About 1,720 members of the scientific and industrial elite went traveled last year, Artsykov said. [sentence as received]

Prime Minister Kebich Has 'Light Operation' on Leg

OW1601180093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Belarusian government's press service on Saturday [16 January] reported via the Belinform news agency that Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich has had a "light operation on the leg."

Moldova

Delegation To Take Part in CIS Minsk Meeting

OW1501160893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovian delegation will be taking part in the meeting of the heads of CIS states in Minsk on January 21, President Mircea Snegur said this in his speech in Moldova's Keinar District on Thursday [14 January]. Most of the cardinal principles of the CIS coexistence will be clarified during the meeting, he emphasized.

In commenting on the relations with the former Soviet Union republics, Mr Snegur stressed that during the ongoing transitional period all the traditional ties need to be preserved, and new established, so long as "the economic problems, which most of the newly independent states have come to grips with, could only be overcome by our joint efforts." In the meantime, the Moldovian president expressed concern that Moldova may "find itself in the trap of the new empire with all of its power bodies and structures." "We, however, have been attending all the meetings of the CIS countries, therefore we have gained a certain experience and know which documents should be signed and which shouldn't," he said.

In touching on Transdniester and Gagauzia related issues, Mr Snegur said he had initiated a dialogue with their representatives in order to address all the disputable problems and determine their political status, Moldova's integrity standing as a precondition for this. The president expressed hope that all of these problems will be successfully resolved in 1993. He is convinced that such a solution would "take one of the trump cards from the hands of those who seek Moldova's unification with Romania."

Hope for Resolving Problems

OW1501193593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Mircea Snegur hopes he will succeed this year in resolving the problems of determining the political status of Transdniesteria and Gagauzia, and in so doing "one of the trump cards will be taken" from those who favor the country's unification with Romania. He announced this at a meeting Thursday [14 January] with residents of the republic's Keinar region. The head of state called attention to the fact that a constructive dialogue has been opened with the representatives of Transdniesteria and Gagauzia in order to resolve controversial issues. Snegur stressed again that the main position of the republic's leadership is the territorial integrity of Moldova.

Developing the well-known idea of a referendum on the state system of the republic, the president said that "should a national plebiscite be conducted, it would be advisable to include in it the fundamental articles of the new Moldovan constitution."

Discussing relations with former USSR republics, Snegur said that in the current transition period it is essential to support all contacts with former Soviet republics and put right new relations, since, he is convinced, only through combined efforts will they be able to solve the difficult economic problems with which all states who have recently gained independence are meeting. "There is fear," he said,

"that we could wind up in the snare of a new empire with its organs and structures. But we participated in all the meetings in the framework of the C.I.S., we have definite experience, and we know which documents we need to sign, and which ones we don't." The president said a Moldovan delegation would participate in the meeting of heads of C.I.S. states in Minsk January 22, and said that at this meeting many fundamental points in the existence of the Commonwealth of Independent States should be clarified.

President Snegur Delegation Leader

OW1801174493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1705 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX has learned that a Moldovan delegation headed by President Mircea Snegur will participate in the conference of the CIS heads of states in Minsk on January 22. The Prime Minister, Andrey Sangeli, the President of the National Bank, Leonid Talmach, the Defense Minister, Pavel Kryange, the Justice Minister, Aleksey Barbinyagre, the general director of the national radio and television, Adrian Usaty, and the state arbiter of Moldova, George Kovaliu, are in the composition of the delegation.

The governmental sources told INTERFAX that the Moldovan delegation will participate in the discussion of all issues standing on the agenda except the military ones. Moldova also has a number of remarks and amendments to the draft of the CIS Charter and to the documents concerning the creation of an inter-state bank and an inter-state court.

Armenia

Attack on Nagorno-Karabakh Repulsed 14 Jan

NC1501142593 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] The KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY cites Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Self-Defense Forces Headquarters reporting that Azerbaijani Army units subjected almost all the settlements on the eastern border of the NKR to rocket and artillery shelling throughout 14 January. Under cover of artillery shelling, the Azerbaijani Army launched an offensive.

Supported by armored cars, the enemy advanced toward Karmirshuka and Chartar in Martuninskiy Rayon on the morning of 14 January. That evening Armenian self-defense forces halted the enemy's advance and threw them out of the NKR. One enemy tank was hit. Armenian casualty figures are being determined.

The Azerbaijani Army's attacks against Kichan in Mardakertskiy Rayon and at the south of the Lachin humanitarian corridor were also halted.

The news agency also reports that Khanabad in Askeranskiy Rayon and Edillu in Gadrutskiy Rayon were shelled at 1900 on 14 January. At least 90 Grad rockets were fired on Khanabad. The same evening an Azerbaijani warplane violated NKR airspace and dropped three cluster bombs on Khdzorestan in Askeranskiy Rayon.

The NKR Self-Defense Forces Headquarters refuted a statement by the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry's information and analytical center that the NKR is also using air force. The misleading information disseminated by the same center on the alleged downing of Armenian aircraft is only a propaganda smokescreen to prepare the ground for air raids on NKR territory.

Four Azerbaijani Su-25s Reportedly Shot Down

NC1501193793 Yerevan SNARK in English 1447 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Stepanakert, January 15 (SNARK)—According to the 6 P.M. information from the headquarters of the Karabakh self-defence forces, SNARK reports anti-aircraft defence has hit 4 Su-25 Azerbaijani air fighters today. According to preliminary data 2 pilots has been taken prisoners, and a third has shot himself. These are the greatest casualties during a day, the Azerbaijani Air Forces suffered from the beginning of the war.

Said To Carry Russian Pilots

OW1801162193 Mos INTERFAX in English 1507 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item tra tted via KYODO]

[Text] Informed s es in Yerevan have informed INTERFAX that tl dies of the two pilots of an Azeri Air Force military craft which was shot down over Nagorno-Karabakh on January 15 have been identified. Judging by documents recovered from the wreckage, they are Captain Aleksey Plotnikov from the city of Prokopievsk in the Kemerov oblast of Russia; and Major Anatoliy Chistiakov from Ufa. According to witnesses in Yerevan, another two Azeri aircraft were downed on the same day; it was, however, impossible to identify the bodies.

The same sources report a disruption of Azeri attacks on the village of Arachadzor in the Mardaker region of Nagorno-Karabakh on Sunday. According to preliminary data, the Armenians lost two men killed and four wounded, while the Azeris, according to data from Yerevan, suffered up to fifteen casualties.

Since Monday morning, detachments of the Azeri army, supported by artillery and armored vehicles, have been on the offensive in the direction of the village of Kichan. Detachments of the Armenian Defense Forces are resisting the offensive. Some twenty Azeri soldiers are reported as either having been killed or surrounded.

Furthermore, the Azeri defense ministry reports the foiling of an Armenian attack in the direction of Fizuli and fighting in the region of the Lachin humanitarian corridor linking Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia. Two Armenian tanks and as many armored personnel carriers were reported destroyed.

According to reports from Baku, the regional centers of Agdam, Fizuli, villages in the Zangelan region, and northwestern areas of Azerbaijan-Armenia border have come under attack by rocket artillery in the past 24 hours.

The Azeri ministry also reports the use of Armenian helicopters in the shelling of population centers in northern Karabakh. People were wounded and property damaged as a result.

The headquarters of the Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Forces deny reports that military helicopters were used against Azerbaijan.

Downing of Air Force Planes, Helicopters Denied

NC1801181193 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY cites self-defense forces headquarters as reporting that Azerbaijani armed formations launched an offensive this morning against Kichan in Nagorno-Karabakh's Mardakertskiy Rayon. The Armenian self-defense forces are resisting the enemy. By 1400, 21 Azerbaijanis had already been killed.

KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY also circulated a statement by the self-defense forces headquarters which refuted the Azerbaijani propaganda alleging that Armenian warplanes and helicopters belonging to the air force have been shot down during the battles. The self-defense forces headquarters affirmed that Armenian air power

has not been used in general, and therefore the downing of any aircraft is not an issue.

Ominous calm was prevailing in the other regions of Karabakh as of 1400 today.

President Ter-Petrosyan To Visit Kazakhstan 18 Jan

LD1801071093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0654 GMT 18 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Alma-Ata January 18 TASS—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan is arriving in Kazakhstan on Monday to ask its leaders to help Armenia with gas supplies and solve other economic problems.

Earlier this year Ter-Petrosyan had visited Russia to promote larger shipments of fuel to his republic.

Armenia which found itself in an economic blockade because of the conflict with Azerbaijan is experiencing a sharp deficit of energy and fuel. Supplies of gas to Armenia will be a separate issue at the talks, according to the press service of the Armenian president.

A treaty on the principles of interstate relations between the two former Soviet republics is expected to be signed, as well as a trade and economic agreement for 1993 and a protocol on mutual settlements.

Ter-Petrosyan is expected to meet his Kazakh counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev, while the Armenian delegation will hold talks in the government, the national state bank, various Kazakh ministries and departments.

To Discuss Economic Cooperation

NC1801214093 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan left for Alma-Ata today on a brief working visit.

During the high-level Armenian-Kazakh talks, Ter-Petrosyan and [Kazakhstan President] Nursultan Nazarbayev will discuss economic cooperation, in particular the delivery of gas from Kazakhstan to Armenia.

'All Industry Structures' Stop Due To Energy Crisis

NC1601141493 Yerevan SNARK in English 1314 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Yerevan, January 16 (SNARK)—All industry structures in Armenia has stopped in Armenia, owing to the energy crisis occured, according to the January 15 evening Armenian Minister for Industry Ashot Safarian decision. The Ministry informed SNARK'S reporter the industry wouldn't work till February 1, but it is likely the term will be posponed, if the energy supply isn't enhanced. The 7 strategic plants are still working in the uninterrupted conditions.

Azerbaijan

Yeltsin Neutrality in Armenian-Azerbaijan Issue Lauded

MK1501162993 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jan 93 p 3

[Aydyn Mekhtiyev report under "Azerbaijan" rubric: "Baku Replies to Paris' Request. Aid Is Aid, but for Whom Is It Destined?"]

[Text] NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent has learned that the Azerbaijani foreign policy department has received a message from French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas containing a request "to render assistance in supplying the Republic of Armenia with essential commodities and in particular to take measures to guarantee transit shipments of energy raw materials being sent to Armenia." Commenting on this information at the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent's request, Araz Azimov, chief of the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry International Organizations Administration, stated: "This document reflects the fact that the Armenian leadership's propaganda campaign, to the effect that Armenia has now turned into a disaster zone because of the alleged blockade by Azerbaijan, has influenced the French Government. Azerbaijan is not against France's and other countries' desire to give Armenia humanitarian aid. But we are not at all confident that the Armenian side will utilize this aid for the civilian population's needs and that it will facilitate the Armenian expeditionary corps' withdrawal from Nagorno-Karabakh." In Mr. Azimov's opinion, this stance by France, the United States, and certain other Western countries can only "free the Armenian Government's hands enabling it to continue the aggression against Azerbaijan." The chief of the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry International Organizations Administration severely criticized the recent public statement by David Shakhnazaryan, spokesman of the Republic of Armenia's president, that "Armenian-Azerbaijani relations can be settled only after Baku has agreed and reached a compromise with Karabakh's Armenians." According to Mr. Azimov, a compromise with Karabakh's Armenian community is possible only given the Armenian armed formations' unconditional withdrawal from the occupied territories.

At the conclusion of his exclusive interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent, Araz Azimov highly rated Russian leader Boris Yeltsin's position on the Karabakh question in the recent Russian-Armenian talks in Moscow. Yeltsin's readiness "to continue efforts at mediation to find mutually acceptable outcomes concerning this problem's solution" is evidence of the fact that, according to the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry's official representative, the Russian leadership is staying neutral in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

Army Foils Armenian Plans To Occupy Fizulinskiy

NC1501152793 Baku AZERTAC in English 1323 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, January 15 (AZERTAC)—Plans of the Armenian Armed Forces to occupy Fizulinskiy district's center and cut off the group of the Azeri Army in Kubatlinskiy and Zangelanskiy areas failed. According to the Information-Analytical Center of the Azeri Defence Ministry, sub-units of the Azeri Armed Forces repulsed the enemy's attack, launched a counter-offensive and occupied important height Uryandag. There were, 4 tanks and armoured car destroyed, as well as a part of enemy's soldiers.

According to the data of the Defence Department, the Headquarters of the Azeri Army takes measures on neutralization the Armenian expeditionary corps fire positions on the south of upper Karabakh.

Today there were heavy fights on frontage line near Agdam town, which had been shelled from the side of Askeran settlement.

It is hot situation on the frontier of Azerbaijan and Armenia. The Armenian armed troops attacking the Azeri Kegnakishlak boundary village of Akstafa area. The fights are going on here since 1.30 P.M.

Formations 'Stopped' by Karabakh Forces; Retreat

LD1501153993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1422 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Yerevan January 15 ARMENPRESS-TASS—Units of the Azeri Army continued incessant bombardment and attempted several offensive actions along the entire eastern border of Nagorno-Karabakh on Thursday [14 January]. Stepanakert sources said the Azeri formations supported by armoured vehicles advanced towards the Armenian villages of Karmir, Shuka and Chartar during the day but were stopped by the Karabakh self-defence forces and had to retreat. Azeri attempts at advancing inside the Mardakert district and in the southern part of the Lachin humanitarian corridor were curbed as well.

Two Planes Confirmed Lost Over Nagarno-Karabakh

OW1601141393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has confirmed Friday's [15 January] loss of two combat planes over Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenia, in turn, declares Azerbaijan lost four planes.

Baku says Azeri forces downed two Armenian helicopters.

In the past 24 hours, says the Defense Ministry, the Armenians launched several unsuccessful attacks on the approaches to the Azeri city of Fizuli. They lost two tanks, one MIAV [expansion unknown] and one artillery gun.

Deputy Speaker of Parliament Meets Nakhichevan Leader

OW1601175893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Afiyaddin Jalilov, deputy speaker of the Azeri parliament, during his visit to Nakhichevan on Friday and Saturday, discussed with the autonomous republic's leader, Geydar Aliyev, Nakhichevan's provision with food and fuel, as well as use of a motor route between Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan running through Iranian territory. Communication between Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan is currently impeded by Armenia's blockade of the republic.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Discusses Iran Visit, Abkhazia Issue

Interviewed by IRNA

LD1701152993 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Tbilisi, Jan. 17, IRNA—Georgia's leader Eduard Shevardnadze in an exclusive interview with IRNA today underlined Iran's significant role in promoting peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region as well as in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

He said the Islamic Republic, in view of its political, economic and military potentials, is one of the most important guarantors of regional security.

Shevardnadze who is to visit Iran later this week, said that he appreciates the Islamic Republic's peaceful initiatives towards settlement of the Karabakh issue between the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia, and believes that Tehran's role in this regard has been "fully constructive and positive."

On the objective of his first official visit as head of state to Iran, the former Soviet foreign minister who had the honour of an audience with the late Imam Khomeyni when he brought Mihail Gorbachev's reply to the historic epistle of the father of the Islamic revolution (1989), said his trip is aimed at consolidation and expansion of Tehran-Tbilisi friendly relations.

The imam in his letter had foretold the end of communism and invited Gorbachev to seriously study the dynamism of Islam as a replacement for the fallacious Marxist system.

Shevardnadze in his interview with IRNA noted that Iran and Georgia have always had close ties in respect to their common cultural and spiritual backgrounds, and regretted

that relations between the two neighbours have not properly developed due to the almost two-century dominance of Georgia by the Russian and Soviet imperialism.

He felt confident that his forthcoming talks with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran will open a new chapter in the history of Iran-Georgia ties.

Since the dawn of history Georgia, has had very close ties with Iran. Many Georgian princes had served with distinction at the Safavid court in Isfahan. Even the name Georgia is derived from the Persian word for that Caucasus land 'Gurjistan.'

Shevardnadze noting that Iran has vast potentials in various domains and that newly-independent Georgia though faced with various problems enjoys great potentials in scientific and economic fields, predicted that relations between the two sides will further expand.

"I believe that Iran-Georgia cordial relations, which are based on mutual respect, are not only to the benefit of both countries but also in the interest of all regional states," he added.

On allegations that Islamic Iran has plans to penetrate the Caucasus region and Central Asia, the Georgian leader reiterated that Iran undoubtedly is interested in the existence of countries with political and economic stability in its neighbourhood.

"Nobody can deny that close political, economic and cultural links have existed between Iran and the countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia," he pointed out.

The Georgian president specified that the newly-independent states in the Caucasus and Central Asia want expansion of relations with all countries including the Islamic Republic which is only making efforts towards resumption of traditional ties with these republics.

"I appreciate and welcome the Islamic Republic's efforts aimed at strengthening the status of independent states of the Caucasus and Central Asia by establishing friendly ties with them," he told IRNA.

On the cause of conflict between Georgians and Abkhazians, Shevardnadze denied that the clashes were of a political nature and said that the issue is merely a national and ethnic question.

According to him the Abkhazian separatists have connections with those circles who dream of the revival of the erstwhile Soviet Union in order to stop formation of an independent Georgia.

He considered Abkhazistan as an integral part of Georgia and said he supports an autonomous Abkhazistan but added that the Georgian nation will never allow separation of Abkhazistan from Georgia.

The Georgian leader reiterated the need for extensive efforts by all countries towards settlement of the issues in the Caucasus region and said that the solution to the conflicts in Georgia and Karabakh could be found only through negotiation.

Radio Address Previews Visit

LD1801183093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1443 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] We have just received this report on the telephone from Tbilisi by IPRINDA correspondent Zurab Dvali.

[Begin Dvali recording] On 19 January Eduard Shevardnadze, the head of the state of the Republic of Georgia, will fly to Iran on an official visit. This is the first foreign visit by the head of the state. The mass media is paying a lot of attention to this visit because in Tehran, important general political problems will be discussed, together with economic questions, which as some of observers believe will make Georgia one of the states to whose opinion the politicians of the Near East region will listen.

It is planned that during this visit, Eduard Shevardnadze will have two meetings with Iran's President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In Tehran a package of documents in the sphere of politics, economics, science, culture, and transport will be signed between Georgia and Iran. The head of the state also intends to hold negotiations with the leadership of Iran on the delivery of gas to Georgia.

Today Eduard Shevardnadze, in his traditional speech on radio, commented upon the upcoming visit and declared that he attaches exceptional importance to it. Taking into account the processes which are taking place in the Caucasus, in the Near and Middle East, at the present time my meetings with the president of Iran will be very important, Shevardnadze noted. Shevardnadze added that today, as far as Iran's opposition and confrontation with some of the Western countries are concerned, this visit is even more necessary. Of course the scaling down of this confrontation cannot be achieved as a result of just one visit. However, Georgia must make at least some contribution to this matter, Eduard Shevardnadze noted. [end recording]

Comments on East-West Rapprochement

OW1801174793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze said on Monday in a traditional radio address that his intention to visit Iran according to a timetable agreed upon earlier was his answer to the question of whether there was a threat of a coup d'etat. Speaking out against the "simplification" of rumors of a putsch, the parliament chairman further emphasized that "if the situation were serious, the visit would have been postponed."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The visit to the Iranian capital was set for 20 January. Fourteen documents have been prepared for signing, among them a declaration of the principles of friendly cooperation between Georgia and Iran, an agreement on joint action by the parliaments of the two countries, and a treaty on trade and economic cooperation. After Iran, Shevardnadze plans to visit Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

The trip to Tehran, he said, had great meaning for the future of Georgia. "Iran may, at some level, have an effect on negative processes in the Caucasus and the Near and Far East," said the parliament head. He called "a rapprochement between East and West" one of the goals of his trip. Shevardnadze believes that finding a balance between the interests of Iran, Russia, Germany, and the United States depends in large part on the efficacy of diplomats.

Elaborating, he recalled the importance of the dialogue now being conducted in Tbilisi with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov. Touching on the negotiations, he said: "Unfortunately, relations with Russia are now quite indistinct. And this is not surprising. A difficult process of divorce is now ongoing between our two countries. For 200 years we were linked with Russia. And it is too early to announce: let our nations go their own ways. In any case, at the current moment, such an announcement is premature. Without traditional ties with Russia, Georgia's economy cannot exist. We cannot go ahead with a difficult transition period without paying attention to the Russian factor. The negotiations with Boris Pastukhov, which I know well and value highly, were very constructive. We have now planned another step. I think it will be useful."

Shevardnadze emphasized that during the last contacts between Russian and Georgian delegations "on any level," the question of a meeting between the heads of state was becoming all the more crucial.

"I am thinking about this, and upon my return from Iran, steps will be taken to expedite such a meeting. Without total clarity in relations with Russia, it is difficult to talk about an end to the war in Abkhazia. It is probable that within the next ten days, relations between Russia and Georgia will be clarified," said the parliament chairman.

Gives Press Conference

LD1901102993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1013 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi January 19 TASS—Chairman of the Georgian Parliament Eduard Shevardnadze left for an official visit to Iran today morning. This is his first official trip abroad after he became head of the Georgian state. Shevardnadze held a press conference in Tbilisi airport before leaving for Tehran.

"The visit to Iran is of great importance for the future of Georgia as a sovereign and independent state," Shevardnadze said. "Georgia's geographic and geopolitical position evokes the interest of many countries of the world. Iran, too, has definite interests in the Caucasian region, both political and economic. This may play a positive role in the settlement of the situation in the caucasus as a whole."

"Georgian foreign policy devotes primary attention to good relations with neighbouring countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Turkey and Iran, with which Georgia is linked by close ties over the past twenty six centuries, and a new stage of these long-standing relations is now being ushered in," the Georgian leader noted.

Greeted by Iranian President

LD1901133893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1258 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran January 19 TASS—Georgian Parliament chief Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Iran on an official two-day visit today. He is accompanied by the ministers of foreign affairs, finance, industry, agriculture and public health.

After the welcoming ceremony at Tehran's Mehrabad airport, Shevardnadze and Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, at a brief meeting with journalists, emphasised the great importance of this visit to launching a large-scale cooperation between the two states. Pointing out that Georgian-Iranian relations have a centuries-old history, Shevardnadze stressed that the two countries' interaction may help bring back peace and stability to the caucasus. In addition to political cooperation, Iran and Georgia have a vast potential for mutually advantageous economic relations, he added.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani welcomed the Georgian leader's visit, noting that it will lay down a legal foundation for bilateral cooperation. "There are quite a number of areas for the joint investment of efforts," he said. "Upon the completion of the visit, it will be announced about the new areas of cooperation between the two countries."

Shevardnadze Discusses Russia, Iran, Coup Chances

OW1801121093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1142 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, qualified the present relations of the republic with Russia as "most obscure." In his traditional address on national radio on Monday, he underlined that in a situation of "a hard process of divorce" between two countries, which have been closely tied over a 200 year period, "it is not a surprise." The Georgian leader believes that "the Georgian economy cannot exist without the traditional contacts with Russia." He expressed conviction that "the

relations between the two countries will be cleared up in the near ten days." Shevardnadze expressed satisfaction with the arrival of the Russian delegation headed by the deputy Foreign Minister of Russia, Boris Pastukhov, to Tbilisi to participate in the next round of the Russian-Georgian negotiations. The Georgian leader called his preliminary negotiations with Pastukhov, held on Friday, "extremely constructive." Shevardnadze reported that another meeting was scheduled for Monday.

The third round of the Russian-Georgian negotiations will be begun in Tbilisi on January 21.

According to Shevardnadze, the necessity of a summit between the Russian and Georgian leaders becomes more and more obvious. In his words, Georgia "will undertake certain steps to bring this meeting closer" after his return from Iran (the visit is scheduled for January 20).

Shevardnadze qualified his upcoming visit to Iran as a visit "which has an important significance for Georgia with respect to its future development." He believes that Tehran can "to some extent" influence the negative processes in the Caucasus, Middle and Far East. Shevardnadze said that one of the aims of his visit is the nearing of the positions of East and West—"in any case we shall make an attempt to weaken the tension in these relations." In response to a question concerning the possibility of a military coup in Georgia, Shevardnadze declared that his decision to go to Iran is the answer to this question. "If the situation were serious, there would be no visit," he emphasized. At the same time Shevardnadze called not "to simplify" the rumors about a coup.

Shevardnadze Receives Russian Deputy Foreign Minister

OW1601141093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Friday, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze received in Tbilisi Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov. The two men focused, among other things, on the pressing problems of bilateral relations and the situation in Abkhazia.

Boris Pastukhov heads the Russian negotiating team that arrived in the Georgian capital that same day to discuss the conclusion of a Russian-Georgian treaty.

Aims of Visit Expressed

LD1601144793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1438 GMT 16 Jan 93

[By SAKINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi January 16 TASS—"The aim of our Tbilisi visit is to continue working contacts with Georgian colleagues," said Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov, currently here on a working visit.

"We plan to discuss the agenda of the upcoming third round of the Russian-Georgian negotiations. We will also consider the Abkhazian conflict settlement and improvement of the Russian-Georgian relations. Unfortunately, certain cooling was recently characteristic of our relations, and we believe it our task to overcome the tendency."

Pastukhov said Russia is ready to be an objective and impartial mediator in settlement of the Abkhazian situation. In his opinion, many provisions of the Moscow agreements of September 3, 1992, appeared to be broken. "And this is not the fault of Russia," he added.

"We are rendering and will continue to render humanitarian aid to the population, suffering from the war. Russian representatives to the United Nations and the CSCE call for active participation of these organizations in settlement of the Abkhazian conflict and attraction of international observers to the zone to control the distribution of humanitarian aid and observation of human rights."

Bilateral Relations Discussed

OW1801165693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has met with the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov, who arrived in Tbilisi for talks. The negotiations will begin on January 21. This is the second meeting Shevardnadze and Pastukhov have had over the past four days. Shevardnadze described the previous one as very constructive.

Shevardnadze's press service has said that on Monday [18 Jan] the Georgian leader and the Russian diplomat discussed bilateral relations. The two sides said bilateral contacts should expand and a full-scale treaty between Russian and Georgia be drafted at an early date.

On the same day Pastukhov met with the Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvadze.

In the course of the previous round of talks in middle of December in Moscow the sides discussed and drafted a treaty of friendship and cooperation, as well as agreements on the status of Russian troops and the functions of Russian border guards staying in Georgia on a temporary basis.

Update on Fighting With Abkhazian Armed Forces

Military Helicopter Downed

OW1501160393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The headquarters of the Abkhazian armed forces reported to INTERFAX that, on Friday [15 January]

morning, Abkhazian formations brought down a Georgian military helicopter over the village of Tamysh in the Ochamchira region. The previous day, the Abkhazians destroyed a Georgian tank and an APC [armored personnel carrier] near the village of Pokvesh in this region. According to data received from Gudauta, the Georgian army lost about 12 men. There are no casualties among the combatants of the Abkhazian formations.

The Abkhazians hit another Georgian tank near the river of Gumista, where fighting has been ragging constantly over the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, according to the press center of the Georgian Defense Ministry, Georgian intelligence tracked the redeployment of Abkhazian formations near Gumista on Thursday evening. The Georgian detachments were in a state of high alert, but there were no clashes. Only three Abkhazian APCs opened machine-gun fire. As a result of Georgian artillery retaliation the APCs left the front line.

Continuing Gunfire Reported

LD1601032693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1846 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi, 15 Jan—The warring sides divided by the Gumista River still have their old positions. According to data at the headquarters of the Georgian military command in Sukhumi, today Abkhazian formations consisting of tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, and mortars opened intensive fire on Georgian positions near the Gumista River. One Georgian serviceman was slightly wounded. The Georgian troops have been put on a full state of readiness.

Abkhazians Resume Firing on Sukhumi

LD1601114193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0926 GMT 16 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS string correponsdent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi January 16 TASS—After a week-long interval, Abkhazian armed groups again fired on the residential blocks of Sukhumi last night, destroying five houses in the downtown area, a spokesman at the headquarters of the Georgian military command told ITAR-TASS.

According to preliminary data, four civilians, including two women, were wounded.

Abkhazians Derail Supply Train

LD1601122293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 16 Jan 93

[From the "Vesti" program]

[Text] Today, INTERFAX reported that Friday evening near the inhabited locality of Tamysh, a group of Abkhazian saboteurs derailed a train carrying goods intended for the Georgian troops in Abkhazia's Ochamchirskiy Rayon. The train consisted of about 20 railcars of food, weapons, and ammunition. There is as yet no information about this act from Georgian sources.

Human Rights Leader To Request UN Interference

OW1601141293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to official sources in Tbilisi, the Chairman of the Georgian committee on human rights and inter-ethnic relations Aleksandr Kavsadze has taken a plane for New York where he'll brief the UN Security Council on the situation in his country and will be expected to suggest that the United Nations send a peacekeeping contingent to Abkhazia.

Earlier, the head of the Georgian Parliament Eduard Shevardnadze addressed the United Nations with a formal request for the discussion of the Abkhazian developments and possible UN interference in the Abkhazian conflict.

Shevardnadze Secretary Represents Him in Sukhumi

OW1601143093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press-secretary of Eduard Shevardnadze, Revaz Egadze, has arrived in Sukhumi instead of the Georgian leader. In Sukhumi Shevardnadze was expected to focus on what his schedule describes as organizational issues.

Shevardnadze Denial of Coup Possibility Unconvincing

PM1501163793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jan 93 Morning Edition pp 1, 2

[Report by Besik Urigashvili: "Tbilisi: The Quiet Coup Will Not Come To Pass"]

[Text] The Georgian parliament has resumed work after the Christmas break, and, as was to be expected, the main topic of discussion was possible upheavals among the political leadership.

The "upcoming political and military coup" has become the most fashionable topic of conversation in and around political society. On the eve of the resumption of the winter-spring session of parliament Irakliy Tsereteli, leader of the Georgian National Independence Party, added fuel to the fire. In an interview for the paper IVERIYA-EKSPRESS he effectively accused the Georgian authorities and Shevardnadze of trying to lead their own country to defeat [porazhenchestvo], of reviving neo-Bolshevism, and of many other mortal sins. And he said that unless the war in Abkhazia is over within a

week after the start of the session's work, government and parliament will have to resign.

Tsereteli is well known in Georgia for speaking on impulse and his menacing statements are often poohpoohed, although in this case Shevardnadze's supporters regarded this interview as a trial balloon in the parliamentary attack on the head of state. Addressing the parliamentary session, Irina Sarishvili, one of the leaders of the National Democratic Party, called Tsereteli's pronouncement populist and demagogic, saying that he was playing on the name of the whole Georgian national liberation movement and stressing that her party, in the shape of its parliamentary faction, supports Shevardnadze. Sarishvili said that the coup, which is evidently being prepared in the bowels of certain power ministries, is utter folly and that if this adventure is embarked on, it will be a major setback for Georgia.

Eduard Shevardnadze, in turn, suggested to the deputies that they not start the parliamentary debate on this question in the absence of Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani, who is in Moscow for talks with Pavel Grachev. He said he had met with all the guard field commanders and there is no armed force in Georgia at the moment that would embark on such a folly. "It is pointless trying to bring armed formations and parliament into conflict at this time," Shevardnadze said. "It is senseless to try to stir things up: The guard and the armed forces will not go against their own people's will."

But many are unsure whether Shevardnadze's words are backed up by firm control of the situation. Particularly as there are many indications that reactionary Russian circles, who, via units in Georgia and via the support of Abkhaz and Ossetian separatism, could be very successful in influencing the situation in the country, are also involved in the latest bout of destabilization in Georgia. In particular, the recent events involving the capture of of military units in Lagodekhi and Tbilisi were very strange. Both these units belong to the Russian Defense Ministry Main Intelligence Directorate. Moreover the unit of Russian Rambos in Tbilisi was masquerading under the innocent name: "Control and Measuring Laboratory." And whereas there was a considerable ballyhoo over the capture of the Lagodekhi unit, the capture of the Tbilisi one was a quiet, modest, and relatively peaceful affair.

Informed people in the Transcaucasus Military District and Georgian Defense Ministry told me that the "sides have come to an understanding" and the incident is closed.

This entire political game is rather reminiscent of shadow play, in which the disembodied movements merely hint at the secret meaning and the real actors. But one way or another a solution will come.

Deputy Prime Minister Views Approach to Minsk Summit

OW1501195493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1734 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian Vice-Premier Roman Gotsiridze said in Tbilisi Friday [15 January] that the presence of a Georgian delegation at the forthcoming CIS summit in Minsk was still under discussion. He pointed out that Georgia's presence at the summit in the role of observer had not been ruled out. There could, however, be "no talk of Georgia becoming a member of the CIS," Gotsiridze stressed.

Government Signs Agreement To Join Ruble Zone

LD1601202593 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Video report, including recorded passages by correspondents N. Gongadze and Georgian National Bank President Demuri Dvalishvilli; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A governmental agreement on Georgia joining the single monetary zone has been signed in Moscow.

[Gongadze] When the leaders of the former union republics met in Minsk, Bishkek, and Alma-Ata, where the foundations were laid for future relations between the new states, Georgia was idle. Not one document has yet been drawn up to define its relation toward the financial space of the former union. This evidently has been the cause of the difficulties which have led to there being no money today to pay wages, pensions, or grants. Even refugees are deprived of their right to receive their allowances. Money has previously come to Georgia from the presses of the Russian Federation State Administration for the Issue of Banknotes.

[Dvalishvili] A critical situation has developed regarding the provision of banknotes. We failed to receive 15 billion rubles [R] in December. Similarly, we have yet to receive anything this year. Our requirement for the first quarter of this year alone is around R45 billion.

[Gongadze] Financial circles in the republic believe Georgia's decision to remain within the ruble zone will help the problem with the shortage in bank notes to be settled. The new Russo-Georgian agreement covering reciprocal supply of goods upto R12 billion will also act as security to this. Similar accords will be reached with Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and other CIS republics in the near future.

Estonia

Government Supports Western Military Action in Iraq

WS1501131493 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 0910 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Tallinn, January 14—Estonia's government on Thursday [14 January] issued a statement supporting Western military action in Iraq.

"The government of the Republic of Estonia supports the efforts of the United Nations and coalition forces in reinforcing peace and stability in the Middle-East and ensuring the sovereignty of the Kuwait nation," the statement reads.

Estonia is convinced that the action aimed at reinforcing peace will promote solving the crisis in the region, the statement proceeds.

No Progress in Troop Withdrawal Talks With Russia

WS1501132093 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0919 GMT 15 Jan 93

[From 15 January PAEVALEHT, RAHVA HAAL, p.1]

[Text] Friday, January 15—The eighth round of Estonian-Russian negotiations in Nakhabino brought no solution as to the final date of withdrawal of foreign troops from Estonia. "The delegations sticked to their present official standpoints," said Luik after Thursday's [14 January] plenary session.

Luik announced that he made a report on Estonia's priorities at negotiations with Russia. According to Estonia, the final date of withdrawal should be this summer, the Russian side would not speak of other dates but end of 1994. Luik met Russia's Deputy foreign Minister Vitaliy Tshurkin who spoke again about difficulties at troop withdrawal. "The main problem is that the Russian side would not even speak of other terms," Luik said.

According to Estonian delegation head, the Russian delegation behaves in a correct way and the negotiations are held in a peaceful and quiet way. The only one showing inflexibility and stiffness is the economic work group. The Estonian-Russian free trade agreement concluded last September is not enacting because Moscow does not have the political wish to carry it out. The same applies to other economic problems.

Work group will continue negotiations today.

Minister Reviews Talks' Status

LD1801031893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0003 GMT 18 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn, 18 Jan—Russia's position at the interstate "divorce" talks with Estonia has become tougher. This is the opinion of Minister Without Portfolio Juri Luik, the head of the Estonian delegation, which he expressed to journalists upon his return from another round of talks in Moscow. He thinks this is due to the "lack of assurance of the members of the Russian delegation" in the light of the change in government of the "eastern neighbor," and also the fact that the leadership of the Moscow Foreign Ministry, he believes, has somewhat lost influence among the upper echelons of power.

The greatest difficulty, Luik pointed out, was encountered in the dialogue on humanitarian questions. He sees the reason for this as being that, as he put it, the leadership of this working group of the Russian delegation is under the influence of the Supreme Soviet. The minister said the Estonian side has not managed to convince its partners in the talks that an agreement on reciprocal return of illegal immigrants will not be used by Estonia to the detriment of Russians permanently living here.

He expressed regret that it has not proved possible to get out of the deadlock on the question of a final schedule for the withdrawal of Russian troops from the republic and that each side stuck to its opinion.

European Meeting To Discuss Russian Troop Withdrawal

OW1801142793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1146 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The session of the Parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe's committee on relations with the European states - non-members of this international organization - will be held on Tuesday [19 January] in Tallinn. The session is to discuss issues connected with the withdrawal of the Russian forces from the Baltic states, the situation in Yugoslavia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and other "hot-spots" of Central and Eastern Europe.

The members of the committee are expected to meet with the Estonian leaders, deputies of the State assembly, and representatives of the public.

On Wednesday the participants of the session will depart from the Estonian capital for Latvia.

Latvia

Russian Accusations on Human Rights Violations Rejected

LD1501201693 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Pressure is on the Latvian delegation before regular talks with the Russian delegation. This is how Latvian Minister of State Janis Dinevics commented at a

news conference on [Russian President's Press Secretary] Vyacheslav Kostikov's announcement on human right violations in Latvia. The minister rejected accusations addressed to Latvia, called them unsubstantiated and noted at the same time that such an announcement will not facilitate improvement of relations between Latvians and Russians in Latvia. The Russian delegation will come for talks on 19 January. The minister indicated that after this announcement the round of talks will be very tense and will probably have rather insignificant results.

Moscow Accused of Exerting Pressure

OW1501220093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1802 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia is trying to exert pressure on the outcome of the next round of the Russian-Latvian talks which are due to start in Riga on January 19, Latvia's acting Ambassador in Moscow Ingrida Levrence said, commenting on yesterday's statement by the Russian President's press secretary, Vyacheslav Kostikov.

As BALTFAX reported earlier, in his document Mr Kostikov expressed the Russian President's concern over "mass" and "demonstrative" violations of human rights in Latvia.

By circulating this statement, the Latvian diplomat reasons, Russia is trying to bias the conclusions of the CSCE commission for national minorities who are arriving in Riga on January 15.

In the words of Ms Levrence, the contents of Mr Kostikov's statement run counter to the conclusions made by the members of the UN special mission who were examining the observance of human rights in Latvia at the end of October.

CSCE Commissioner Arrives

LD1501233293 Riga Radio Riga Network in Russian 2100 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] The high commissioner on the issue of national minorities of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, (Max van der Stoel), arrived in Riga this afternoon. He is accompanied by two experts [words indistinct]. Over the course of five days, they will be acquainting themselves with the situation in the sphere of ethnic relations in Latvia.

Economic Committee Head Criticizes Policies, Resigns

WS1501130693 Tallinn BNS in English 0959 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] RIGA, Jan 13, BNS—MP Ojars Kehris presented a survey of Latvian state economic policies at the parliament on Wednesday [13 January] in view of his retirement from the post of the economic committee chairman.

According to Kehris, his resignation is intended to attract public attention to the parliament acting as a brake upon economic reforms since the regain of independence. Hence the parliament is responsible for the current economic crisis.

Kehris said the parliament has ungroundedly rejected several substantial economic committee proposals, for instance, the candidature of the present deputy Finance Minister Uldis Osis for the ministerial post and the committee's program for reorganization of the central bank.

However, the economic committee head concede that partially he was to blame for failing to convince the majority about correctness of his ideas.

Regarding the country's present economic standing, Kehris warned against regressive developments as the course to a market economy had become unstable.

[Passage indistinct] government to succeed in attempt to join the modern world, according to Kehris.

The tasks include granting a more favorable status to both industrial and agricultural manufacturers; seeking outer markets for domestic goods and services at a level of a state policy; reconstruction of transport and telecommunications network; and improvement of environmental protection programs.

Other preconditions for the country's normal existence are due monitoring of foreign loan distribution; efficient tax policies; resolution of demographic problems and coordination of national educational system.

The state should take concrete measures to better perform its duties and not interfere with self-initiative of separate persons and enterprises.

Finally, the state bodies should work hard to explain essence of reforms to the public and improve general efficiency of government officials.

The parliament is scheduled to consider Kehris resignation at the next plenary meeting.

IMF Experts Say Economy Ready To Collapse

OW1601190293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1559 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvia's economy has sharply deteriorated and may be in for a total collapse in spite of the government's strict monetary policy, according to experts from the International Monetary Fund who on Friday [15 January] met with a Latvian government working group in Riga.

As was stated during the meeting, Latvia, following the IMF's recommendations, has managed to bring down the inflation rate but no structural changes have been made in its economy. Moreover, the population's living

standards and solvency have sunk to a disastrously low level. The IMF experts believe the present economic crisis has mainly been caused by the unreasonably high exchange rate of the Latvian ruble against the CIS states' currencies, which does not reflect the actual ratio between prices in the Latvian and eastern markets. As a result most Latvian goods have ceased to be competitive in the eastern market.

Latvian experts believe, however, that the government's monetary policy pursued under IMF supervision, is only aimed to stabilize the Latvian ruble rather than the country's economy on the whole.

The IMF so far takes the view that the present policy should not be abandoned since any changes, such as revision of the Latvian ruble's exchange rate against the CIS's non-freely convertible currencies would lead to higher inflation. The IMF experts think the situation may improve in two or three months, when the difference between prices in the Latvian and eastern markets is expected to be reduced.

The talks will continue next week.

Ex-OMON Head To Be Handed Over to Russia

LD1501201993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1757 GMT 15 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga January 15 TASS—Latvia has agreed to hand over Sergey Parfyonov, former head of Riga OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachments] accused of power abuse, to Russia, if the Latvian parliament votes so, Latvian public prosecutor Janis Skrastyns told a news conference on Friday.

The news conference was also attended by representatives of the Russian public prosecutor who arrived in Latvia for talks on Parfyonov's case.

Skrastyns said he will submit a document addressing the issue to the parliament on Monday, expressing confidence that the parliament will give a positive response.

Yevgeniy Lisov, deputy Russian public prosecutor, said if Parfyonov is handed over to Russia, his verdict will not be reconsidered.

Lithuania

Russia Accused of Breaking Agreements on Military

OW1501202493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1802 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Russia has essentially changed its stance at the talks with Lithuania," Ceslovas Stankevicius, head of the Lithuanian state delegation at the talks with Russia, said in a statement he made public at a briefing in the Lithuanian parliament on Friday [15 Jan].

"Russia is discarding earlier agreements by setting new preconditions and advancing ultimatum-like demands, most of which are incompatible with the norms and principles of international law," Mr Stankevicius said in his statement. "The Russian representatives," he went on, "are openly threatening Lithuania with Russia's reneging on its internationally acknowledged commitments in regards to the pullout of the Russian occupational army, unless Lithuania complies with Russia's new demands."

In particular, Mr Stankevicius qualified as ultimately unacceptable Russia's demands "to accord legal status" to the Russian military personnel in Lithuania, endow them with civil and political rights, and meet Russia's claims to the real estate "occupied" by its military units.

"This Lithuanian delegation is determined that Lithuania cannot accept such unlawful ultimatum-like demands and preconditions," the statement says.

In the words of Mr Stankevicius, the heads of the Russian state delegation and the Russian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] announced that they decided to make an "pause" in the talks with Lithuania until "Lithuania changes the composition of its delegation and its position."

Mr Stankevicius asserts that the Russian MFA is trying to take advantage of the change of the Lithuanian government and compel Lithuania to accept its demands, therefore "bring into life the policy Andrey Kozyrev postulated in Stockholm on December 14."

Brazauskas Registers as Presidential Candidate

LD1801061793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2146 GMT 17 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius, 18 Jan—Algirdas Brazauskas, chairman of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDLP] and one of the seven candidates who have declared their wish to fight for the presidency, has become the first officially registered candidate for the post of the head of the Lithuanian state. This was announced late yesterday evening in the national television newscast by Presidential Electoral Commission [PEC] Chairman Vatslovas Litvinas.

Under the regulations on the election of the head of state, which is to take place on 14 February, those declaring their intention to stand for the state's supreme office are obliged to submit to the PEC by 20 January sheets with the signatures of 20,000 electors supporting them. Litvinas said "the LDLP has already submitted such sheets with more than the required number of signatures. Therefore, the PEC has officially registered acting President Brasauskas as a candidate for the post of head of state."

The process of collecting signatures for the other six candidates is not going so smoothly. If they do not collect the necessary number of signatures by the required date, they will no longer be able to take part in the election for the presidency and will lose the deposit—41,450 coupons—that they paid.

The election campaign officially begins on 23 January.

Prime Minister, IMF Think Coupons Need Strengthening

OW1601190393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1559 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys and an International Monetary Fund delegation, at their meeting in Vilnius on Friday [15 Jan], stressed the need for urgent measures to strengthen Lithuania's provisional currency, the coupons. One of such measures can be Lithuanian enterprises' compulsory sale of 30 percent of their hard currency revenues to commercial banks. These funds could be used to buy oil and other energy sources from Russia.

The IMF delegation, led by Adalbert Knobl, head of the Fund's department dealing with the Baltic states, arrived in Lithuania this week to prepare a quarterly report on Lithuania's implementation of the Economic Policy Memorandum, a document worked out jointly by Lithuanian and IMF experts and guaranteeing Lithuania financial assistance from the West. According to the delegation's preliminary assessments, the new Lithuanian government's measures do not contradict the memorandum's principles, so the IMF is not going to use any sanctions against Lithuania.

The IMF experts will continue work in Lithuania next week.

Membership Agreement Signed With IFC

LD1601150493 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Lithuania has been admitted to the International Finance Corporation [IFC]. The Lithuanian Embassy in Washington informed ELTA that yesterday Amabassador Stasys Lozoraitis signed an agreement with the IFC, and thus Lithuania became the 151st member of this organization, the first among the three Baltic states. [passage omitted]

Government Expands Communications With Poland

OW1701173993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1637 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Lithuanian delegation headed by Communications and Information Minister Gintautas Zhintalis leaves for Warsaw January 17 to sign an agreement on the development of postal and telecommunications and other forms of communication. This, in the view of the Lithuanian media, is proof of the recent continuing improvement in relations between Lithuania and Poland.